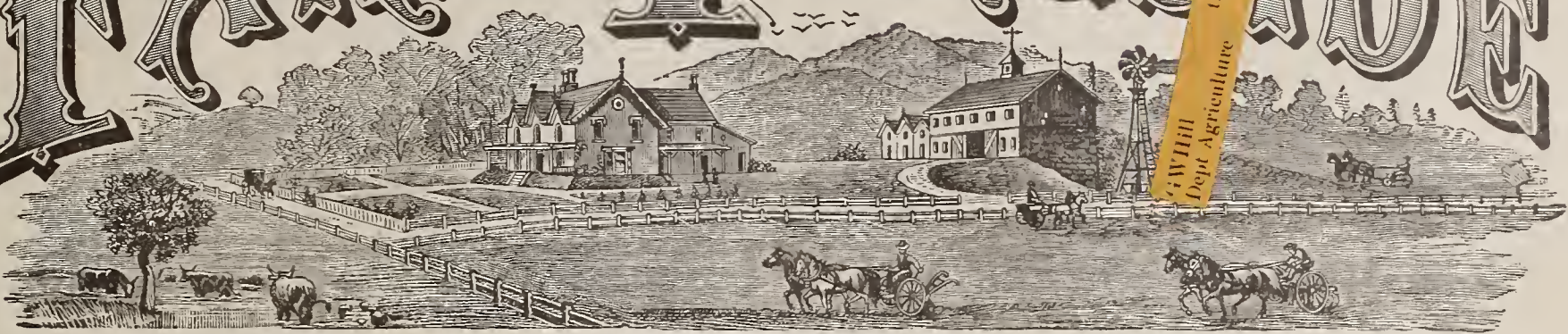


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FARM & FIRESIDE



WESTERN EDITION.

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effective as to results desired than the tax regulation plan. The exchange, at New York, through its flour committee, has instructed the inspector that flour containing any foreign substance shall not be graded, and that packages containing such flour shall not receive the brand of that exchange. It is to be hoped that other exchanges will act in the same manner."

THE enormous use of wood-pulp in paper-making is now rapidly exhausting the supply of spruce and poplar, the kinds of timber best suited for this purpose. To avert a pending famine in the raw material, the Minnesota State Forestry Association recommends tree culture for wood-pulp, and states that different companies are now buying up large tracts of cut-over and abandoned lands on which to raise spruces from seeds and seedlings.

During the past ten years the increase of the wood-pulp business is estimated at five hundred per cent. Besides white and manila papers, pulp is manufactured into building-materials, tubs, pails, mosaic blocks, carriage bodies, bullets for rifle use, protective armor for torpedoes, shoe-soles, alcohol, bedding, silk yarn for garments, and many other articles. Adapted to such a great variety of uses, the demand for wood-pulp will pass beyond the supply of raw material before trees planted now are old enough to cut, and spruce groves will soon become very valuable.

SECRETARY COBURN, of the State Board of Agriculture, has published, in striking form, a statement on "Kansas Agriculturally in 1897." Tables of products by quantities and values, and of live stock by numbers and values are followed by the state bank commissioner's estimate of the indebtedness cancelled in 1897. The total value of farm products is over \$136,335,000, and the total value of live stock is nearly \$94,075,000, making a grand total of over \$230,410,000. The indebtedness cancelled, mortgages and to banks is estimated at \$30,000,000, which is evidence that Kansas farmers knew the best use to make of part of their 1897 prosperity.

THE treaty of annexation of Hawaii, now before the United States Senate, provides, in brief, for complete sovereignty of the United States; the islands to constitute a territory, with a local legislature, veto power resting with the president of the United States; a commission of three Americans and two Hawaiians to formulate a plan of government; customs relations to remain unchanged pending legislation; United States treaties to be substituted for Hawaiian treaties; and the prohibition of Chinese immigration to the islands or thence to the United States.

If this treaty of annexation is ratified, the supply of Asiatic labor will be cut off. If Hawaii is annexed to the United States, coolie labor will be abolished.

One of the objections that has been raised against annexation, and which is now being overworked, is that it will be injurious to the beet-sugar industry, as Hawaiian sugar will compete with beet-sugar raised in the United States. In his "Hand-book on the Annexation of Hawaii," Commissioner Lorriu A. Thurston answers this objection as follows, in part:

"The only way in which Hawaiian sugar can injure beet-sugar is by being produced in such quantities as to supplant the beet product of the United States, or by cutting the price so as to lower the price of beet-sugar to its producers. Hawaii can never produce enough sugar to supplant the beet or any other sugar in the United States. The sugar consumption of the United States was approximately two million tons during 1896, which consumption is rapidly increasing year by year. During 1896 Hawaii produced a little over two hundred thousand tons, or approximately one tenth of the consumption of the United States. This is the highest output ever made by Hawaii, and is the best it has been able to do after twenty years of encouragement, under the reciprocity

treaty with the United States. All the natural cane-lands of Hawaii are already under cultivation. The only remaining lands which can possibly be cultivated with sugar-cane are those now dry and barren, which can only be cultivated by artificial irrigation, by pumping water to an elevation of from one hundred and fifty to six hundred feet. It goes without saying that such irrigation must be limited in area and problematical in profits.

"As to Hawaiian sugar cutting the price, sugar is a world product, and its price is determined by the world's price in New York and London. It is sometimes suggested that Hawaiian sugar may more than equal the consumption of the Pacific coast, and that Hawaiian planters would lower their price rather than send it to New York. The reply to this is that the Pacific coast's consumption is only about seventy-five thousand tons per annum, and long ago the Hawaiian product far exceeded this. About one third of the Hawaiian product for 1896-97 was sent to New York, and probably more than one half of the crop of 1897-98 will be sent there.

"It takes from eighteen to twenty-two months to grow a crop of sugar-cane in Hawaii, during the entire period of which it must be irrigated on most of the plantations every week or two. It takes the beet-sugar planter only about six months to make a crop. The cane-sugar planter has to employ his labor all the year around; the beet-sugar planter discharges his laborers when the crop is made. The cane-sugar planter of Hawaii pays now somewhat less wages per month than does the beet-sugar planter, although not so much less as is generally supposed, the average laborer in Hawaii costing the planter from fifteen to eighteen dollars a month. Under annexation the Asiatic supply of labor will be cut off, and this slight advantage will be eliminated. Again, it costs the Hawaiian cane-planter approximately ten dollars a ton to get his sugar from the plantation to its market, while the beet-sugar planter has his market at his door. Taken all in all, the cane-sugar planter of Hawaii stands on no more favorable basis than does the beet-sugar planter of the United States."

THE development of cotton-manufacturing in the South has reached a stage where its competition is being severely felt by this industry in New England. The recent announcement of a reduction of wages in the New England cotton-mills, at a time wages are being raised in nearly all other industries, has led to a study of the conditions under which the southern mills are operated. It is clear that they have the advantage all around. The raw material is at their doors, instead of a thousand miles away. Cheap fuel is near at hand. In many cases, as an inducement to their establishment, they have been exempted from taxation for a term of years. They pay less a day for labor, and get more hours for a day's work than are allowed by law in New England. These advantages enable them to produce for less and sell cheaper than the New England mills, and the latter are forced to meet the competition by reducing their expenses.

ENCOURAGED by two years of fair prices, the cotton-planters put forth their best efforts the past season and succeeded in raising a crop of ten and one half million bales, an overproduction so great that prices have gone down again to the unprofitable level. The crop of 1895 was about three million bales smaller, but it brought the planters more money than the crop of 1897 will bring.

Ex-Senator M. C. Butler, of South Carolina, says: "If we could limit the crop in this country to seven or eight million bales a year, it would make cotton one of the best and surest money crops in the world. To reduce the acreage and limit production can only be done by close concert of action and good faith on the part of the principal cotton-raisers in the cotton belt. That a reduced acreage and production would result in remunerative prices seems too clear to require argument."

To devise means for accomplishing this is the main purpose of the American Cotton Growers' Protective Association, recently convened at Memphis, Tennessee. Three years ago the association aided in reducing the acreage planted, with gratifying results, but low prices do more in this direction than resolutions.

CORN flour used in adulterating wheat flour is made like wheat flour. The corn is crushed between rolls, and the flour is dusted out as the meal runs over a bolt. This meal is crushed and rebolted several times, until nearly all the starchy part of the grain is in the form of fine flour. This corn flour is mixed with and sold as wheat flour. Considering that corn costs the miller about one fourth as much as wheat, there is a wide margin of profit in mixing the flours.

How much mixed flour is now put on the market is not known, but the evil has grown to magnificent proportions. This matter recently came up before the National Board of Trade, at the meeting in Washington, in the form of a resolution, urging Congress to impose a tax upon the manufacturers of mixed flours, and to require that such flour shall be plainly branded "mixed flour."

On this subject the Cincinnati "Price Current" says: "That the mixing of flour with other products is an evil, when such flour is sold as pure, cannot be disputed, even though the foreign substance be without deleterious qualities. A purchaser is justified in expecting to secure what is understood in the transaction. Many articles of consumption might possibly be more or less improved in merit by having a mixture of other products, but in all such cases the fact of mixture should be known."

"The introduction of corn product into wheat flour cannot be regarded as harmful to the consumer, but it is an imposition when not made known, especially to the baker, who prepares in large quantities his flour for certain products; and if the elements expected to exist are not there in the usual proportion, the result is disappointment, and generally attended with serious loss. This condition may result from the mixture of spring wheat, with its peculiar characteristics, with winter wheat, which is as much a case of adulteration in the flour product, from the bakers' standpoint, as the introduction of a portion of corn product.

"The New York Produce Exchange has taken an important step toward correction of the evil of mixed flour, by a very simple procedure, which we believe, if adopted by all the other inspection markets, will be more

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We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Raising Turkeys.

Referring to my earlier notes on raising turkeys, one of our friends residing in Illinois, says: "If you wish either pleasure or profit in raising turkeys, keep clear of wild stock. You never can tame them. At the slightest noise they fly to the top of the tallest trees, and you cannot drive, coax or trap them into a barn. A better cross is the American Black with the Mammoth Bronze. The common black turkeys are very tame, and do not wander off so far as other kinds. I have been raising turkeys for twenty years on the farm, and find both pleasure and profit in them. For lice on the little turks, and on ordinary chicks, also, I use Persian insect-powder, which is much better and safer than grease." This is just such a piece of experience as we, the readers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, wish to hear. Some of the experiment stations have told us about the advantages of the crosses of our common with the wild stock, until some of us got rather wild on the subject ourselves. I confess I am still longing for a good gobbler having half or quarter wild blood, for the sake of getting some experience myself in crossing him on Bronze turkeys. The stations, of course, in making their experiments, kept their birds confined by wire fences, as does Mr. Dawley. But I believe much depends on the way the little turkey chicks are brought up. If hatched in an incubator (or under fowls, either) and brought up in a brooder, by hand, I believe even the wild stock will become and remain tame enough for all practical purposes. At least, I propose to work on that plan.

* * *

Our Sugar Outlook.

A few weeks ago we had that "sugar meeting" in Lockport, N. Y. Probably not less than five hundred farmers were present, and filled the big court-room to overflowing. But it was not all sweetness for the

promoters of the scheme, who had hoped to get nearly the whole of the required 3,500 acres of beets pledged, yet who found only few of the farmers willing to put their names under the preliminary contract. Not more than 300 or 400 acres were promised at the price offered; namely, \$4 a ton, payable within a few weeks after delivery, and \$1 additional in January or February, on receipt of the state bounty. Since then the representatives of the proposed builders and of the capital have made another concession, now offering to pay a straight \$5 a ton, and the outlook for the success of the scheme seems more flattering. At least, the promoters expect to be able to get not less than 4,000 acres of sugar-beets pledged in time for the beginning of operations next spring. This means that they will find two hundred farmers willing to raise an average of twenty acres of sugar-beets each. It is thought that a farmer having such an acreage in beets, and expecting to receive from it a gross income of not less than \$1,200, can afford to equip himself with the proper tools of cultivation, and take the best care of the crop, while a person having only a few acres, and being compelled to look to other crops for his main source of revenue, will be very apt to first take care of his other crops before spending time on the beets. I cannot say in how near this calculation comes to the true state of things.

* * *

Essential Points.

Beet-sugar experts say that the beet, in order to be rich in sugar, must have a chance to send its tap-roots down into the subsoil. The factory wants smooth roots, not those that are all "fingers and toes." Thus they expect the grower to subsoil his beet-land in the fall, by following with some sort of subsoil-stirring plow in the furrow made by the ordinary plow. Many farmers will consider this quite a task, and possibly be a little slow to bind themselves to grow sugar-beets under these conditions. For most soils this subsoiling will not be so difficult as it may look at first glance. The work can be done in the fall, and should be done with greatest care. All manurial substances should also be applied in the fall. Stable manure should be well rotted and applied in moderate doses. Superphosphate may be used quite freely without detriment. Close planting is absolutely necessary. The individual roots should weigh from one to three pounds only. Larger roots are deficient in sugar. The rows are made about twenty inches apart, and the plants left about five to eight inches apart in the rows. I surely would rely on the hand wheel-hoe for the first cultivation, and I think I would prefer the one with the new weeding attachment, which is a kind of small, steel spring-rake, following after the side blades and pulverizing the crust often left by the side blades. The thinning can be done largely by means of a common hoe, and afterward by the nimble fingers of active youngsters, while the later cultivation can be accomplished by horse-power. We may have to devise a special cultivator or harrow with narrow teeth, loosening up the ground in three rows at a time. On the whole, I believe in the ultimate success of the American sugar industry—and yet, sometimes, I cannot help thinking of the boom of sorghum syrup, some fifteen years ago, and how soon and how thoroughly that industry has gone to pieces.

* * *

A Catalogue of Fruits.

The Department of Agriculture, Division of Pomology, has just issued a 40-page bulletin (No. 6) which every fruit-grower should have in his possession. Small as it is, it probably embodies as much hard and painstaking work, study and research as any bulletin ever issued by the department. This is the catalogue of fruits recommended for cultivation in the various sections of the United States by the American Pomological Society. This catalogue is not complete, and it may have its errors, but it is as perfect as one of the most noted, most experienced pomologists of the United States, Mr. T. T. Lyon, of Michigan, with the help of his associates on the committee, and of the best fruit experts of the country could make it by years of painstaking labor. The catalogue contains three divisions: (1) Fruits mainly adapted to northern localities, (2) Sub-tropical and tropical fruits, (3) Native and

introduced fruits and nuts grown in the open air; also the society's rules for exhibiting and naming fruits. I hope that every nurseryman and every seedsman of the land among them, especially those with a weakness for introducing new fruits and vegetables under sensational names and descriptions, will possess themselves of a copy of this catalogue, and read and heed the suggestions found in the society's rules for naming fruits. Rule No. 3 says: "The name of a fruit should preferably express, as far as practicable by a single word, a characteristic of the variety, the name of the originator, or the place of its origin. Under no ordinary circumstances should more than a single word be employed." In rule No. 2 the society reserves the right, in case of long, inappropriate or otherwise objectionable names, to shorten, modify or wholly change the same, when they shall occur in its discussions or reports; and also to recommend said changes for general adoption. The society and its catalogue of fruits has done much to bring order into the chaos of the nomenclature of fruits grown in America. The great need of the times now is a catalogue of vegetables cultivated in the United States, and the enforcement of rules (like those of the Pomological Society) for naming new varieties of vegetables, shortening and changing the names already existing, determining synonyms, etc. In this field we are yet laboring under a Babylonian confusion that is senseless, and to me very annoying. Possibly the Department of Agriculture may be able to find a way out of this dilemma. Copy of the catalogue of fruits can be had by forwarding request and five cents in coin (not in stamps) to the Superintendent of Public Documents, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

S. S. W., Iowa, writes:
Pigs Sleeping on Manure Pile. "Is it harmful to young pigs to allow them to sleep on a pile of manure?"

It certainly is. I have seen promising herds of pigs killed just that very way. The pigs contract acute rheumatism or lung-fever from the steaming manure, and often die before the owner is aware that they are ailing. I once saw a nice bunch of fifteen pigs, averaging about 100 pounds, lying on a large heap of hot manure while the ground all about was covered with snow. They were packed closely together, and shivered like they had the ague as the cold wind swept over them.

"If you don't get those pigs off that manure heap and keep them off you will lose every one of them in less than thirty days!" I called to the owner, as I was passing.

"Why, that's a fine place for them," he shouted. "That manure keeps them warm. They would rather lie there than eat when the weather is cold."

"You can let them lie if you like, but in less than three weeks you will wish you had taken my advice."

About a week later one of them died. He took the hint, moved them to a dry shed, gave them a good bed of dry straw and saved them. He was depending upon them to pay a pressing debt, and, as he afterward said, "if he had lost them he would have been in a bad fix." He honestly believed the manure pile was a good place for them to sleep, and despite my warning continued to think so until he found one of them dead.

* * *

Spreading Stable Manure. "Querist," Indiana, asks which I think would be the better plan: To pile the stable manure made this winter in a heap, or to throw it into a sled, and as soon as a load accumulates draw it out and spread it on corn-land.

By all means draw it out and spread it at once, and be done with it. Every time an article or product is handled its cost is increased. It is an expensive mistake to handle manure four times when it can just as well be removed from the stable and spread on the land with only two handlings. To be sure, we have spells of rainy weather when it is not advisable to drive a team on the land; but if we improve the opportunities as they occur not much manure will accumulate.

Manure drawn direct from the stables to the field is quite as good and enriches the soil fully as much as when allowed

to lay in heaps all winter. Farmers must learn to economize in labor as well as in other things. When a thing can be done with two strokes don't make four. Keep your wits about you, and economize wherever you can.

Usually there is considerable undigested grain in the droppings of cattle, and these should go into the pig-yard. In the spring this manure will be in excellent condition for garden or special crops of any sort. Poultry manure should go straight from the poultry-house to the land. The houses should be cleaned out frequently in winter and the droppings scattered on the land at once. In summer they should be applied between the rows of some growing crop and cultivated in at once.

* * *

Hog-cholera Has destroyed a large number of herds in a locality

not far distant from me, and a farmer residing in that neighborhood has just told me how the disease was introduced and spread. I give this information here as a warning to others:

"Mr. L. drove sixty miles across the country to visit a relative. This relative's hogs were dying with cholera, and Mr. L. helped him bury several of them. Shortly after his return his own hogs took the disease and began to die. A young farmer in the neighborhood was courting Mr. L.'s daughter, and on one of his visits kindly assisted the old man to drag a couple of them out of the pen. In a few days the young man's herd was attacked, and his father went over and helped him separate the sick from the well, and while they were about it a cousin came along and also helped them. A few days later the herds of the father and cousin took the disease and died rapidly. Every one of these parties lost his entire herd."

The farmer who gave me the above account lives on a farm adjoining two of the above-mentioned parties, and he has about thirty head of fine, fat porkers nearly ready for market, and he has established a shot-gun quarantine against all the above parties and their friends, as well as against hog-buyers. He allows no man to set foot in his hog-lots or to bring a dog on the farm.

He says: "I have raised those hogs and fattened them, and I am depending on them to pay my rent. If I succeed in keeping them in health, and get a fair price for them, I shall be able to pay all of my debts and have a little surplus besides. Some people do not like my quarantine measures, but I would rather not have a single visitor for the next five years than to lose those hogs. I am looking out for my own interests; you can bet your last dollar that nobody else will!"

He has held the fort for seven weeks, and his hogs are still healthy and thrifty and appear likely to remain so, though their food is corn and the little grass they can pick up in a two-acre orchard. In "Farmer's Bulletin No. 24" Dr. Salmon says: "A particle of manure or dirt the size of a mustard-seed from an infected farm is sufficient to start an outbreak that will destroy a herd." About ten years ago I competed for a cash prize, offered by a farm journal, for the best essay on the prevention of hog-cholera, and won it. In that essay I held to this view of the matter, and advised every farmer to establish a shot-gun quarantine when an outbreak of the disease occurred in his neighborhood.

Thousands of farmers do not take a farm journal, and they know nothing about adopting sanitary measures of any sort for preventing the spread of the disease, and it is not right that well-informed men should be compelled to suffer great losses through the ignorance and negligences of their neighbors. Our farmer friend is right in excluding even his nearest neighbors from his farm. Not one of them, so he informs me, is a subscriber to any farm journal, and when he volunteers any information obtained from those he takes they make light of it.

Another farmer friend informs me that he has just lost the last one of a fine herd that was nearly ready for market. The disease was introduced by a small pig straying from a neighboring farm where the disease was raging and wandering into his hog-lot. It slipped through the fence and was among his fattening hogs before he knew it was on the place. How aggravating this is.

FRED GRUNDY.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

LOOKING BACKWARD.—At the close of the year we may profitably glance back over the failures and successes that have attended our labors. So far as observation serves me, our chief failures are due to attempts to farm on a scale too broad for our means. There is lack of capacity, either mental or financial or physical, that accounts in large part for the very low crop-averages of this country. The season may thwart the best-laid plans, and all of us are dependent upon the weather, but the inclination to undertake too much places thousands of us wholly at the mercy of weather slightly unseasonable, leaving us no chance of taking advantage of favoring circumstances. Each year I am more impressed with the foolishness of spreading our effort too thinly over a big area. The competition of this age cannot be met in this way. The best possible management of a limited area is the only safe dependence for most men. Many accept this statement as true, but will not act upon it. They continue to trust that an exceptionally favorable season will bring a big crop out of land that is infertile or that is not planted and cultivated promptly on time. They are hopeful—they abound in hope—and the profits from the best fields go annually to make up the losses on the poor or neglected fields. Friends, this is true, emphatically so, and small, national crop-averages tell the story of measuring our crops and prospects by acres rather than by bushels.

THE WHEAT CROP.—The wheat crop of 1897 was profitable—a boon to the farmers of this country. It is generally understood that the rise in price was chiefly due to foreign demand; that is, our brother farmers of Europe and other countries failed to secure usual yields, and our exporters bid up the price of wheat here to get supplies for these other countries. The result is that our farmers have more money from their crops, and are encouraged. The entire country has felt the impetus given by money received from a profitable crop. As a class, farmers begin the year of 1898 with more hopefulness than was theirs one year ago. But we must bear in mind that a good foreign harvest will change the whole situation, and the close economy learned in late years should still be practised until some stability in good prices is assured. We have spread our effort over a big acreage of fall-sown grain, and much ill-prepared ground was seeded. Only the best-prepared fields now promise a fair harvest.

THE MEADOWS.—Hay was not a profitable crop to many farmers last year, and this fact was due in part to carelessness and too large acreage. Weedy meadows were allowed to stand everywhere. The owner of a small farm, holding each field to account, was master of the situation. Where the grass was fairly promising, excepting on account of white-top and other like weeds, the fields were cleaned of filth with hoe or scythe before the growth of grass was hurt. Where the meadow was not worth the labor of cleaning the growth of grass and weeds was turned under for manure, and the field was put into shape for profitable crops in the future. There was income from a clean meadow, or a field was being improved so that income would be gotten as soon as possible. The foul meadow, hardly worth the labor of cutting, did not, or should not, exist as a source of loss. Could this course have been pursued generally, fewer tons would have been marketed, prices would have been better, and, best of all, a vast acreage of land would have been put into better shape for the future, instead of remaining covered with a mass of weed-seeds.

THE CORN CROP.—Our average yield of corn must remain low so long as thin sod-land is broken for this crop with the impression that one crop of grain may possibly be gotten out of the small supply of decaying sod. The soil has been sucked clean by timothy, and then the remaining stubble and roots are claimed as plant-food for a corn crop. Corn is a gross feeder, and deserves a chance. It is unfair to the crop, and woefully so to the soil

that has only a remnant of a timothy sod as a supply of humus, to use an unfertilized and worn-out old meadow for corn. Put corn where it can have fertility, and do not let a timothy sod rob a soil of all available plant-food before the sod is returned to the soil and clover gets a chance to get in its work of restoring its life.

Again, yields must be small and money wasted so long as the heat-loving corn-plant is put into cold, undrained land. We may save money in this country by adopting one rule: If land is naturally wet, either underdrain or keep corn off it. Why waste money and labor on things improbable? When chances are against success, the thing to do is to leave the chances alone. We spread over too much land, and we count acres instead of the probable number of bushels.

LOOKING FORWARD.—The price of live stock is tending in the right direction. Young stock is in very general demand. This state of affairs is not bringing the farmer much ready money, as he wants to buy rather than sell; but it promises well for the future. The number of sheep is comparatively small now, and with an advanced price for wool our flock-masters are encouraged. All this means much to the plain farmer as well as the stockman. The pastures that have been broken and devoted to tilled crops in recent years will be reseeded, and there will be fewer acres under the plow. In this way we hope for an approach to normal conditions in our country's agriculture, and some surer profit than has been secured for years past.

MAKING HASTE SLOWLY.—There is no reason to expect any marked improvement in the farmers' financial condition beyond that now experienced by reason of increased demand for present crops, but some slight permanent improvement is reasonably hoped for. We reached bottom, and the turn is now in our favor. Farmers have learned the folly of going into debt, trusting to future crops making good past losses. The economy that has been learned, and the resolution that acreage of tilled crops shall be reduced to the fields which are capable of producing good crops in ordinary seasons, will serve us well in the future, no matter what may be in store. Put tillage only where tillage promises profit. It is a matter of simple arithmetic and good judgment. The thin field can be brought up, not by robbing it, but by means of clover, other sods, green manures and pasturing stock. If this cannot be done with prospect of profit, abandon the field, and that quickly.

DAVID.

DAIRY GOSSIP—THE CREAM-SEPARATOR.

After two years' experience in the use of a cream-separator I am decidedly of the opinion that thousands of farmers who sell butter or cream are losing enough money each year to pay for a complete dairy equipment, including not only the separator, but a good milk-tester, cream-ripening vats, butter-packages, churn and all complete. I have tested skimmed milk after standing twenty-four hours in cans in cold water, and found one fourth of the total amount of butter-fat remaining; and if such results come from the "gravity process" in careful hands, what must be the loss when depended upon by less careful persons. Before using the separator I had a good creamer in a cool cellar supplied by well-water at a temperature of forty-eight degrees, and yet I sometimes found the skimmed milk contained as much as six tenths of a pound of butter-fat to every hundred pounds of milk. Now I frequently find no trace of butter-fat in the skimmed milk.

I was greatly pleased with the work of the separator from the beginning, not only because it did good work itself, but it saved me work in caring for the milk, and made a decided difference in the amount of butter I had for my customers. Of course, during July and August this difference was likely to be the most perceptible, but nevertheless the year's record also left an undisputed argument in favor of the separator when I found that the cows averaged eighty-five pounds more each for the year than ever before. Some will say that "we are extremely careful, and we are satisfied that we get practically

all the butter-fat." One of my friends made just such arguments, and said that in warm weather they packed the cans in ice, so he was certain they secured all the butter. But his wife finally concluded that a separator would save her much work in caring for the milk, in skimming by hand, warming the milk for the calves, washing and scalding so many vessels, etc., and she finally decided to have a separator. It was purchased, and the result was thirty pounds of butter more the first week than before from twelve cows. Her husband could scarcely believe that they had been feeding seven and one half dollars' worth of butter to the calves and pigs each week. That is at the rate of nearly four hundred dollars a year. How many farmers are there who care to willingly feed that much unnecessary food to the calves and pigs, when calves and pigs are as well off without it?

This same lady told me that not only did they get this nice increase in the butter product, but that it actually saved her three hours' work each day. Think of that, good housewives! Three hours' less labor each day with the milk means three hours more for some less laborious task, or for reading the magazines, or for instructing the children, or for practice on the organ or piano, or for social visits to and from your friends.

But some will say the cost is considerable. Well, yes, it probably is. Yet the returns correspond well with the cost. I remember when father paid two hundred and forty dollars for a combined reaper and mower, but we thought we could not afford to do without it, and it did service for twenty years, and some years we made forty or fifty dollars with it cutting for the neighbors. Afterward we paid the same price—two hundred and forty dollars—for a self-binder, but it was almost a necessity. The cream-separator is a necessity to any one who sells butter or cream from five or more good cows, if he expects best results, and I believe there is no other piece of machinery that can be placed upon the average farm that will actually pay for itself in less time than a cream-separator.

Does it run hard? No, not so tiresome as the turning of a grindstone or fauning-mill. I am still running mine by hand-power, though I contemplate the purchase of a sheep tread-power, not so much to relieve me of the task as to furnish healthful exercise and employment for the ram, which will be all the better for him. These small dog or sheep powers may now be had for fifteen dollars, and they may be used to run the churn, grindstone, fauning-mill, corn-sheller, etc.

Is it liable to get out of repair? I have had to buy one rubber ring—cost fifteen cents—in two years, and I frequently turn it over to the hands to run, so it cannot be said that the slight cost for repairs is due altogether to extreme care, though I do exercise care of this as well as all other farm machinery.

Can any one operate it? Any one of ordinary intelligence and judgment can operate it after once seeing the work done. The machine wants to stand on a good foundation, be made secure to it, kept level, turned regularly, the bearings well oiled and occasionally cleaned. The bowl should be handled carefully, and not permitted to fall to a hard floor, in which case it might be injured. Do not start the machine too quickly, nor attempt to stop it by force when once put in motion. Start it gently, get it to full speed before turning on the milk, and when necessary to leave before completing the skimming, shut off the feed, and on return get up the speed again before turning on. When through, let the machine stop of its own accord, which it will do in from two to ten minutes, according to the kind of machine you have. Right here I would say, buy the kind that runs the longest after you cease turning. It will turn the easiest and run the most steadily, and do the best work.

I have seen and examined almost every kind of separator now manufactured, and I believe that all will do good work if properly operated. The chief difference is in the ease of operating them and the

simplicity or complexity of the construction of the bowls.

The quality of the butter will be improved, because the cream is all secured in freshest and sweetest condition, and can be ripened at one's will. The skimmed milk is fed at once to the calves or pigs, and they seem to do better on it when thus destitute of cream, but still possessing the natural animal heat, than they will on the whole milk or partially skimmed milk, if heated artificially. Our calves and pigs never did better than since we have been thus feeding them from the separator. A small quantity of oil-meal is added for the calves, and later they have shelled corn, oats and peas.

JOHN L. SHAWVER.

PICKED POINTS.

After several years of ruinous depression sheep have "come to their own" again, and those who almost tumbled over each other to get out of the sheep business, when the price went down, are now tumbling the other way, when the animals are up to \$4 or \$6 a head. Men are some like sheep, anyway; when one jumps a fence all want to, regardless of where the jump will land them. "Shifty" sheepmen may be known by the amount of mutton they carry above their shirt-collars.

Those who remained in the sheep business through the depression have made some money right along, besides adding much fertility to their farms, which no kind of stock can do so well as sheep. Men who were capable of seeing the wisdom of keeping sheep, when the price fell flat, were also capable of seeing when they would advance in price again, and as a rule, they began to add to their flocks. Now, when sheep are at old-time prices, they have sheep to sell to those who went out of the business so unceremoniously. Though dealing in mutton, they are not "mutton-heads."

A few sheep can generally be kept with profit on most of the Eastern farms, at least, where it is the general custom to maintain fences. They are needed as scavengers, to consume and turn to account many things rejected by other stock. Various kinds of troublesome weeds are but sweet morsels for them. Some of the bitterest weeds are their stomach correctives, and they eat them greedily. A friend cut off a piece of timber last winter. Sheep were alternately summered on that land and an adjoining pasture. In the fall there was not a weed, briar or green tree-sprout to be found on the new land. Otherwise the field now would be overgrown with weeds, briars and bushes.

Any breed of sheep is a good breed if properly cared for. Without such care as the peculiarities of the breed requires, as most of the English breeds do, sheep-growing cannot be a success. If one is so situated he cannot shelter his animals from cold storms, he had better let English sheep alone. The hardy Merinos are only fit for him. As a rule, the southern states have no shelter for sheep. The South begins to see the need of a largely increased sheep husbandry; and in view of their conditions, are largely and wisely breeding up with the French Merino (Rambouillet). With these they get hardiness, size, wool, mutton and quality. They are better suited to southern conditions than any other breed in existence.

DR. GALEN WILSON.

A Weak Stomach

Perfectly Well Since Taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"I have been troubled for over two years with a weak stomach. I concluded to try Hood's Sarsaparilla, and after taking a few bottles I felt perfectly well, and I cannot speak too highly of Hood's Sarsaparilla." Mrs. M. H. WRIGHT, Akron, O.

N. B. If you decide to take Hood's Sarsaparilla, do not be induced to buy any substitute. Be sure to get Hood's, and only

Hood's Sarsaparilla

The One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. \$1; six for \$5. C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

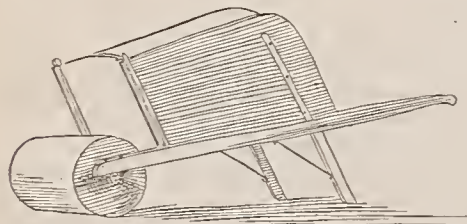
Hood's Pills are purely vegetable, reliable, beneficial. 25c.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

ASPARAGUS FOR PROFIT.—The garden crop which formerly was considered to be not only the first of the season, but also the first in profits, is asparagus. It continues to be a money crop, although not yielding any more the high pecuniary results of former years. If I were to start anew in market-gardening, or on a new and as yet unplanted spot or farm, asparagus, next to strawberries, would be the very first thing I would plant. The same principles that in the preceding paragraphs are mentioned as leading ones, also govern this crop. We must make the land rich, and especially well filled with humus, in order to have it light and mellow above the crowns of the plants. We must give to each plant plenty of room, say not less than twelve to eighteen square feet, and give the best of cultivation. I still believe that when the conditions are right, that is, when the soil above the deeply planted asparagus-crowns can be kept loose and light, the blanched asparagus will yield the best money returns. At least, I can grow fatter and more attractive-looking stalks under ground than I can above ground. And the price obtained for the crop always depends more on fine appearance than on anything else. Besides, I am cranky enough to adhere to my earlier preference for well-grown blanched asparagus. When grown under the favorable conditions already enumerated, the blanched stalks are just as tender as the green ones from above ground, and they have a far superior flavor—the mildness of the thoroughly blanched celery compared with the pronounced and more or less objectionable flavor of the green celery. In short, I would wish to grow fancy asparagus for the fancy trade, and secure top, if not fancy prices. This can be done more easily by growing blanched than by growing green stalks. Finally, I would advise all who are in any way interested in the asparagus crop, whether for home use or market, to send to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for copy of farmer's bulletin, No. 61. It treats very fully on asparagus culture, and is written by R. B. Handy. On the face of it, this seems to be a good guide to asparagus culture, but I have not yet given it thorough and critical examination that treatises of this kind deserve on the part of every farmer and gardener. A little later on I may refer to this bulletin again. Possibly there may be new lessons in it even for the experienced grower.

A HAND-ROLLER.—One of the implements that is found in only a few gardens, and yet often comes very handy when you have it, is a hand-roller. We had an iron hand-roller (with adjustable weights) that did good service in rolling our garden-patches before sowing seeds, or before



working the ground for setting onions and other closely planted stuff. The roller is rather heavy, and for that reason not pleasant to handle for a single person. Two persons will push or roll it along over the ground much more conveniently. We also used this roller in firming and smoothing the ground after planting peas, beans, potatoes, corn, etc., but always thought it rather heavy for the purpose. There is no reason, however, why we should not use a home-made roller, say a section of smooth log, two feet (more or less) long and one to two feet in diameter. A frame, with handles, can easily be made by any one used to handling tools. Recently I found in "American Agriculturist" a suggestion that seems to me worthy of more than passing notice. Saw a section from a round log, and smooth it. Then drive two round bits of iron rod into the center of each end, and use this roller in place of the wheel in the wheelbarrow. The special value of this arrangement is that the whole framework is already in readiness for the roller, and the barrow can be weighted just as much as may be desirable for any special purpose.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

REPORT ON VARIETIES OF PLUMS.

Lone Star—This variety has done no good from some cause.

Marianna—Tree small, forms dense, bushy head, willowy twigs. Sets abundant crop of fruit, which, however, is small and indifferent and ripens unevenly. Season, July 20th to August 1st. Of no commercial value, except to grow cuttings from for budding stock.

Robinson—Tree a good grower, sets a heavy crop of fruit, but is small and indifferent in quality. However, superior to Marianna. Season, August 12-25th. Has very little value.

Seedling No. 1. (T. V. Munson)—A good grower, sets an enormous crop of fruit, but is small and quite indifferent. Season, August 15-25th.

Seedling No. 2. (T. V. M.)—Grows very poorly, has done nothing.

Wayland—This variety has done nothing here.

Wild Goose—Tree grows well, large spreading habit, very hardy and sets a full crop of fruit almost without exception. The fruit is good size and has real value, but ripens unevenly and falls to the ground at once. This character hurts its commercial value. Ripens July 20th to August 1st.

Bavay—Tree grows very strongly and is one of the hardiest of the Domestic class here. Sets some fruit almost every year, but is not sufficiently hardy for this situation. It can be grown wherever peaches will bear a crop. The fruit is of best quality. Season late, September 5-15th.

Beauty of Naples—Grows well and about as hardy as Bavay, but does not rot so badly. Fruit smaller, but of fine quality. Season, August 2d to 10th. Well worth a trial.

Bradshaw—Tree grows well, and is fairly hardy in fruit-buds. Fruit large, purple color, low in quality. This variety rots very badly, and little can be said in commendation. Season, July 25th to August 5th.

Bunker Hill—Has done nothing here.

German Prune—Fair grower but does no good here.

Gneu—Tree grows well, and is fairly hardy in fruit-buds, but does not set crop every year. Fruit large, purple color, only fair quality. Season early, July 20-28th. This is the most promising early plum of Domestic class we have grown. It is fine for culinary use.

Golden Drop—Tree grows fairly well, sets very little fruit, and these seldom mature.

Grand Duke—Grows fairly well, but too tender in bud; never fruits here.

Imperial Gage—Very vigorous tree, and one of the hardiest Domestic plums; sets a good crop when season is at all propitious. Fruit large, of finest quality. Mid-season, August 10-25th.

Italian Prune—Moderate grower, so tender in bud that it does not fruit here.

Jefferson—A good grower, but has not fruited with us.

Lombard—Grows well, and sets an abundant crop when season is at all propitious. Sixty fruits were counted on one foot of limb, in 1896. The fruit is good size, but one of the most affected by rot, and quality is only fair. Season, August 10-20th.

McLaughlin—A good grower, sets very little fruit here. This is large and fairly good quality. Season, August 5-15th.

Prince Engelbert—Grows fairly well, but does not set fruit here.

Prune of Agen—Fair grower, does not set fruit here.

Pond—Tree grows well, sets very little fruit; this is large, quality only fair. Season, August 15-25th.

Quackenboss—Grows well, but too tender in bud; does not set fruit.

Reine Claude—Tree grows well, sets very little fruit; this is medium size, very good quality. Season, August 20-30th.

Yellow Egg—Tree grows very well, sets fruit very scantily with us; this is of fine appearance and of good quality. Season, August 15-30th.

Abundance—Tree tender in this climate, not so hardy as most peaches, nor is it hardy in bud, for we have had abundant bloom for five years, yet but one crop has matured. One almost fatal defect is the early bloom period. Often a difference of three to seven days earlier than others, which usually means the entire loss of the

crop. Fruit medium and very good for its class. Season, July 25th to August 5th.

Kelsey—Grows well enough, but has not fruited here.

Ogon—A better grower here than Abundance, and more hardy in bud. Sets a little fruit almost every year, and favorable years a good crop. Size medium, quality good, early and very desirable where it can be fruited with reasonable certainty.

Wooten—Has done nothing here.

The Japanese varieties are somewhat erratic as to bloom period. Their habit is to burst into bloom whenever a few unseasonably warm days occur, whereas the American and Domestic classes are more tardy. If even, low temperatures prevail, the Japanese varieties bloom more nearly with the others, but are extremely subject to the stimulus of a few warm days. This is peculiarly unfortunate in this changeable climate. I am satisfied that this class of plums offer valuable characteristics wherever they escape frost.—Virginia Experiment Station, Blacksburg, Va.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Whole-root and Piece-root Grafts—Reliable Nursery Novelties—Best Grape.

B. H., Burlington, Iowa, writes: "1. Are whole-root grafted fruit-trees better than piece-root grafts? 2. Is it better in the end to pay more and get whole-root grafted trees? 3. Is nursery a reliable one to deal with? Have their new varieties of fruits been well tested? 4. What varieties of apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries and grapes (that have been introduced in the last four years to ten years) are best adapted to this section? 5. What is the finest quality of grape that can be successfully raised in this section?"

REPLY.—1. They are better only in so far as whole-rooted trees give a more vigorous growth. I always prefer to use medium-size roots, and use one for each graft, but I have grown just as good trees from piece as from whole roots. 2. They ought not to cost very much more than piece-root grafted trees, since the seedling stocks only cost about \$4, or less, a thousand in large lots, which is a very small part of the cost of growing a tree. 3. I think so. Their novelties in fruits, like novelties offered by other concerns, have not been widely tested, but I think they use good judgment in selecting novelties for introduction. 4. This question is too general. I would rather you asked specifically in regard to certain novelties. You should remember that probably not one novelty in twenty that is put on the market is better than the kinds previously grown. 5. Tastes differ greatly. For myself I should prefer Catawba, but I have friends who would prefer Brighton, or even Worden or Lady.

THE PATTERN OF A WOMAN'S LIFE.

WHAT TWO WOMEN SAW IN A WINDOW AND THE THOUGHTS IT LED TO.

Two New York women stood in front of a Broadway window watching a Persian laboriously weaving upon a frame the pattern of a beautiful rug. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, thread by thread the pattern grew beneath his hand, until what had seemed a meaningless crossing of dull threads gradually took on form and beauty.

Suddenly one of the two women began to repeat the lines:

Weaving, weaving threads of faith,
Pattern of a woman's heart,
Who can ere anticipate
The hues of life in every part?
Will the colors warmly glow—
All traced in love and happiness;
Or will they fade in somber woe?
A woman's future who can guess?

There is infinite pathos in the way that



women ponder over and try to trace out the purpose and meaning of their lives. To young and happy women it seems as if destiny was weaving their future in all the colors of the rainbow, like a merry dance of cupids weaving garlands about a May-pole in the springtime of life. But to thousands of women life looks to be all "a warp of sorrow in a woof of pain."

WHAT LIFE REALLY IS.

A woman's life pattern is really woven by herself. A great philosopher has said, "Life is neither pain nor pleasure; it is serious business." If a woman would make it her serious business to understand herself mentally, morally and physically, using the common sense that God has given her, there would be far less misery and suffering woven into the pattern of her life. She can make it almost anything she chooses.

Every woman who wants to derive the full share of happiness which nature intended her to find as a woman, wife and mother, ought to read that great and wise book, *The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser*, by R. V. Pierce, M. D. Several hundred of its thousand pages are devoted to the subject of woman's special physiology, telling in plain and refined language how a woman may build up her physical self to meet the emergencies of her developing career.

It tells young women and prospective mothers how to obtain the special health and strength necessary for happy, capable wifehood and motherhood; how to reinforce their vitality during the expectant time and during the nursing period, so that the child will be stronger and healthier, and the mother's vigor will not be exhausted by the burdens of frequent motherhood.

The author of this great book is among the most successful of living physicians; no other physician has had a wider experience in the treatment of women's diseases. He is recognized throughout the world as an authority in this particular field of medical practice. His "Favorite Prescription" is known in every corner of the civilized globe as the most remarkable supportive tonic and health creator ever devised for weak and ailing women. It imparts direct strength and healthful vitality to woman's delicate, special structure, and increases the vigor, endurance and recuperative force of her entire system.

\$200 SPENT IN VAIN.

A Pennsylvania lady, Mrs. Alonzo Rathmell, living at the corner of Meade and Almond streets, in Williamsport, in a recent letter, says: "My life is a story of misery. Until the birth of my boy I had health that I often boasted of. I married in my twenty-fifth year, and two years afterward my boy was born. Then the health I boasted of was suddenly gone. Pen nor tongue can never describe the awful suffering I endured for a year and a half. I was so miserable I longed for death to relieve me, when a kind neighbor came in and asked me to try a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I said, despairingly, 'Oh, it's of no use; I can't ever be any better.' She insisted, and my husband, who was in despair, got a bottle, and I took it just to please him. I had not taken half a bottle when I was able to walk across the room without feeling faint or having any palpitation of the heart. Oh, what a God-send your medicine is to suffering humanity! We had spent two hundred dollars with the leading doctors without any benefit whatever.

"Last December I had a baby, and, thanks to your 'Favorite Prescription,' I stood the confinement well, and have a fourteen-pound baby girl. To-day I feel as well as I ever did in my life. I hate to even think of how I felt before I began to take your medicine. I could not stand on my feet but it seemed as though I would fall through myself; and to walk was simply torture. But to-day I can hardly believe that I ever was so miserable. I know that I induced a number of friends to try your 'Favorite Prescription,' and have heard of no failures."

For thirty years Dr. Pierce has been chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y., assisted by a staff of nearly a score of skilled specialists in the different branches of medical practice. Any woman consulting him by mail will receive, free of charge, the best professional advice anywhere obtainable.

All correspondence is regarded as *sacredly* confidential.

The magnificently illustrated "Common Sense Medical Adviser" is now published in a paper-covered edition, which will be sent *absolutely free* for the bare cost of mailing—21 one-cent stamps—which should be sent to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, 663 Main street, Buffalo, N. Y., or 31 stamps should be sent if a durable, handsome, heavy cloth-bound edition is preferred.

Our Farm.

WINTER WORK IN THE APPLE ORCHARD.

In considering what work can be done in winter and thus avoided during the rush of the work when spring opens, a look at most of the apple orchards on the farm should convince the majority of farmers that there is a job in waiting for the saw, chisel and paint-brush.

Winter pruning is advisable whenever it is needed. By judicious pruning at this time the flow of sap will be directed into the remaining branches, and renewed vigor and fruitfulness will be the result, provided the too often exhausted soil receives, as it should, a liberal top-dressing of well-rotted manure or muck with which kainit or wood-ashes have been mixed, or of muriate of potash and acid phosphate.

Excessive pruning at one time will fill the top of the tree with water-sprouts, so that it is better to have the period of pruning extend over two or even three winters than to do it all at once. Begin by first cutting out the limbs that rub and cross each other, then all the water-sprouts, except, perhaps, one or two which are well located and may be made of service, either for fruit-growing or re-grafting with some new variety. Formerly all water-sprouts were removed, but now an occasional one is allowed to grow, especially when the soil has been exhausted by over-cropping. Next, cut off the ends of limbs that extend too far out, so as to give the tree a symmetrical appearance and prevent breaking when too much fruit is allowed to ripen.

All heavy pruning should be done in winter when the sap is down, and during weather when one can work comfortably without a coat. Another advantage in winter pruning is that it is easy to see just what branches ought to be removed. Take a look at each tree from a different standpoint. When using the saw, cut as close as possible to larger limbs or the body of the tree, so that no new shoots will spring from below the cut. In cutting out large limbs, first saw to the depth of an inch or two on the under side, about a foot above where the limb unites with the body of the tree or other main limbs, so that splitting down will be avoided, and the final cut made from the upper side can be made smooth. For cutting off small limbs neatly and without injury to the bark below the cut, a socket-handled, crescent-shaped, thin chisel, long beveled on both sides, when struck with a wooden mallet, will cut the outer bark first and make a neat job.

Usually I have done most of my pruning either late in the winter or before the regular spring work was begun. The winter is the season of greatest leisure, and the most convenient time. The lamented Chas. Downing, in the latest issue of his works, settles down upon it as the best time. Trees should be pruned, he says, in the period of rest. There is the supposed, and I believe the real disadvantage of sawing or cutting off limbs in freezing weather, resulting in discoloration and decay; but I think I have checked this by painting the wounds with a drab-colored paint within two or three days of the time they were made.

Tree-pruning, when properly done, is almost a trade of itself. It is easy enough to do a vast amount of irredeemable mischief by indiscriminate cutting and slashing. Better prune too little than too much. Better feed the soil and remove only the limbs that rub and crop each other, and head back the straggling branches, than to prune without good judgment and care. Nature herself will usually grow a very fine tree in good soil, though the tree may not always be the best for the production of the most or best fruit. The prime object of pruning is to clear the tree of superfluous branches, that they may not choke out and destroy one another and the fruit.

W. M. K.

THE FLAX INDUSTRY.

The flax crop of the United States is very small, in comparison with the amount of fiber and seed productions used everywhere and by all people. The acreage devoted to flax culture is confined almost entirely to Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas. These states furnish about 16,000,000 bushels of seed, while almost half that amount is imported from foreign countries every year. The fiber production is very small, as our manufacturers purchase over 10,000 tons annually,

and ship it across the Atlantic to be made into thread for weaving into linens. In addition to the \$6,000,000 expended yearly for flaxseed and raw fiber, shipped from abroad, we buy \$14,000,000 worth of various linen articles manufactured in other countries.

These facts should be enough to stimulate flax-growing in every section where the soil, climate and market facilities are favorable. New land is excellent for flax, and the crop puts the sod or prairie-land in good condition. The growing of seed alone is not very profitable, and fiber-factories are necessary to make flax a valuable farm crop. The fiber can be utilized and all the coarse linen articles of commerce can be manufactured at any point in the United States. There is no necessity for returning to the old practices of our forefathers, in the hand methods of breaking and hackling. Modern machinery can be applied to this industry as well as any other and the dread of drudgery be removed. Many farmers throughout the West are beginning to realize the value of the flax crop and are planting more every year for the seed, which command good prices. The yield is from ten to thirty bushels an acre, according to soil and cultivation. Prices are gaged by the location of the market. Local buyers always pay ten cents, while in the competitive market only about half that sum is obtained a pound.

Flaxseed is sown in May and as late as the middle of June. The best method is by sowing in drills about nine inches apart, though good crops are grown from broadcasting. About forty-five pounds of seed is required for an acre, but better yields may be secured by sowing a bushel. This crop requires but little moisture, and is irrigated very sparingly in the western states. When the plants are almost grown the water is kept away entirely, so that the fiber will grow stronger. A slight irrigation is necessary just before pulling the stems, which are uprooted and laid in thin piles to dry. The Indians and some few white people in the West use the flax-lint for sewing skins and making rugs. Some of the Indians of Arizona weave fine rugs and blankets from the flax, which they produce in a semi-wild state. When capital establishes fiber-factories the growing of flax will become one of the future great industries of the American farmer.

JOEL SHOMAKER.

NIAGARA COUNTY MARKET-GARDEN NOTES.

Last season has put an additional weight to my impressions in regard to thorough work in the growing of any crops from which the best returns are expected. My experience is that it pays to grow a limited quantity under the best conditions, so as to produce a superior article, better than to grow a large quantity in a rather ordinary, if not poor manner, and place upon the market something that goes begging for a customer, because of a lack of the necessary quality and appearance that will attract buyers and insure quick sales.

As striking an example as I have had of this was a crop of cauliflower, planted on some well-fitted soil, which was plowed twice before planting, and thoroughly pulverized each time with a light coat of barn-yard manure at the last plowing. This was a piece of ground on which we twice applied a heavy dressing of special onion fertilizer, with poor results, owing to the very dry weather then prevailing in each case. Under the influence of good growing weather the effects of this fertilizer soon began to show on the cauliflower, and I was not disappointed in my predictions of a good crop of cauliflower, as indicated by the healthy, dark green color of the abundant foliage. As soon as the heads began to show they were properly tied up, and making a rapid growth produced the finest average crop of cauliflower I had ever seen, most of which brought me in the neighborhood of one dollar a dozen. This is not all. Even while ordinary cauliflower sold much lower, I scarcely had enough of this to supply urgent calls, several of my customers engaging a dozen to two dozen from one market-day to another, and scarcely ever raising the slightest objection to price. But just as soon as the quality went down, no matter what the price, there was a kick.

This experience holds good in nearly everything I have attempted to grow. No matter how cheap the ordinary run of the crop, when we have something extra in quality and appearance, it will sell quicker

and bring a better price, while the cost of growing an extra fine crop is not much more expensive than to grow a poorer one.

C. WECKESSER.

HEMLOCK TIMBER ON THE FARM.

The wider acquaintance the lumber buyer or consumer has with different varieties of woods—with their peculiarities of strength, durability, workable qualities, etc.—the more economically he will buy. Having such knowledge, he will find sometimes that the more costly article is really the cheaper, or he may find that the cheap articles may, for certain reasons, be as satisfactory as the more expensive one with which he is acquainted.

To the farmer hemlock, which is a comparatively new material in the West, should appeal with special force because of its peculiar adaptability for certain classes of construction combined with cheapness. It is actually better for some things than white pine, and yet can be had at a much lower price. It is better for some things than yellow pine—better, in fact, for corn-cribs than any other material.

Hemlock has the advantage of being both strong and stiff; that is, it is capable of bearing a heavy strain and of not yielding to it until the breaking-point is closely approached; therefore, for framing material it is unexcelled. For mud-sills and in situations where it is subject to alterations of moisture and dryness hemlock is found extremely desirable. Therefore, to a large part of farm building construction it is peculiarly well adapted.

In sections of Iowa where it has been thoroughly tried hemlock is given the preference for barn construction. It is a little late in the season to talk about corn-crib material, and yet the attention of the farmers should be called to the fact, supported by much irrefutable evidence, that rats and mice will not attack hemlock, and so cribs built of it are rat and mouse proof, except as the rodents may find their way through openings into cribs. They will not make an opening, however, and this fact should commend it for this purpose to the farmers.—The Lumberman.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM TEXAS.—Etta is the western suburb of the city of Houston. It has two stores, four slaughter-houses, eleven dairies and a great many gardens, and will soon have an electric railway. There is a brick-factory within a mile of us, with a capacity of thirty thousand bricks daily, which is far behind its orders. Buffalo bayou, which runs within five hundred yards of our post-office, has excellent brick-clay and brick-sand along its banks. Our land is sandy near the bayou, and black on the prairie; all rich. We need a creamery and a canning-factory. Dairy-men have no trouble selling all their milk during the winter season, but there are so many cows in this country that it is impossible to sell all the milk sweet during the summer season.

L. L. R.

Etta, Texas.

FROM ILLINOIS.—The wheat crop was almost a total failure here the past year; the corn and fruit crops were good. The apple crop was abundant and brought a good price. Many apple-trees will be set out next spring. Among the leaders are Ben Davis, Jonathau, Grimes' Golden, and for summer and autumn, Maiden Blush. Ben Davis is a good market apple, but the flavor is inferior and it does not bring as good a price as Grimes' Golden and Jonathau. There are other good varieties, such as Winesap, Northern Spy and Rome Beauty. As good a winter apple as grows here is the Yellow Belleflower. The Sweet Bough is a popular variety. Some apples netted farmers here last fall over \$3 a barrel.

P. C. C.

New Salem, Pike county, Ill.

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Our farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hemmington, New Jersey.

HOW TO FEED IN WINTER.

THE difficulty in winter is to get what is wanted for fowls. Grain is always plentiful, and can be readily procured, but it is generally convenient to feed cabbages, turnips and potatoes at all times. When the root-crops and cabbages are sealed up by the frost they are beyond the reach of the farmer, unless he has provided some other method of storing than covering with earth. The poultryman who feeds for eggs must halt between two difficulties. He must not feed too much, yet he must give enough to enable the fowls to produce eggs. To attempt to measure the food and give a certain quantity every day is too methodical and also wrong. One must first find out by a test what should be done. The fairest and best mode of arriving at the quantity of food to give is to make a series of experiments with the various foods. For instance, to take the ground grains and give the hens a full meal, morning and evening, is a sure road for making them too fat, and the fowls must also be in condition which will induce them to work, yet they must not be deprived of a sufficiency. The plan used by successful poultrymen is to select a certain number of fowls, say twenty, and weigh the ground grain dry, using a little more than the quantity supposed to be sufficient, which may be stated, for example, as thirty-two ounces (two pounds). This food is moistened and placed in a long trough. The fowls are allowed to eat until the last hen voluntarily retires. Then the food in the trough which is uneaten is weighed. If it weighs eight ounces, then it will be known that twenty-four ounces of food were eaten. The poultryman then leaves twenty-four ounces of food at one meal. As the uneaten food is damp, however, it is better to weigh the whole when damp, before putting it in the trough. Now, to avoid overfeeding, let the hens have one half the next morning (twelve ounces), which will leave them in a condition desiring more, and they will work for seeds or grain. At night give them all the food they will eat. This plan means half a meal in the morning, nothing at noon and a full meal at night. If other foods than grain are given the experiments must be continued. The reason is that no two flocks are alike. One will eat more or less than the other, and each poultryman must make his own observations. It is the only way to find out how much to feed, and it will give better results than to allow food indiscriminately.

POULTRY AS A SPECIAL INDUSTRY.

It is to be said in favor of the poultry industry that while panics and financial depressions have occurred several times in the history of this country the markets have always accepted the supply of poultry and eggs offered, and at better prices than those derived for many articles in other lines. The great drawback with poultry and egg production is that farmers do not produce enough, for although millions of dozens of eggs come east from the West, yet eggs seem to find new customers every year, something required in the arts increasing the demand, and it is the fact not generally known that the eggs used for the purpose of supplying albumen is enormous, the manufacturers competing with the consumers who use them for food. It has frequently been made manifest that when the production of an article is in excess of the demand for one or two years the low prices serve as inducements to stimulate investments in some direction in which eggs perform a prominent part (perhaps some invention), and the demand soon keeps pace with the supply. At present this country imports eggs, which is a sure indication that farmers are not taking advantage of the markets. It seems almost impossible to prevail upon farmers to make a business of poultry, instead of simply keeping but a few hens which are not recognized as having prominence on the farm. With the improvements now gradually becoming accomplished by the use of pure breeds, and the fact that consumers are learning that quality may be from choice stocks, prices will advance and

farmers be forced to resort to poultry as the source of profit, because they cannot ignore the advantages of fowls over larger stock. There is a fair profit even when prices are low, and the fact that eggs have brought high prices at some seasons make it difficult for farmers to look upon lower prices in summer very favorably; yet eggs in summer really cost the farmer nothing at all.

SQUABS FOR MARKET.

At this season squabs are very high and frequently bring fifty cents each at retail. The wholesale price ranges from \$2.50 to \$4 a dozen. A pair of pigeons will produce from six to ten pairs of squabs a year. They are not profitable if permitted to fly at large, as boys, hawks and other enemies destroy them, but can be made to pay if kept in a suitable building with a wire-covered yard. A house eight by twelve feet, and a yard one hundred feet long, twenty feet wide and twelve feet high, will serve for twenty pairs. The food should be wheat, bread, cracked corn, fresh meat (chopped), seed of any kind, finely chopped grass and clover, ground bone, etc. A box of ground meat, one of ground bone and one of pulverized charcoal should be kept conveniently for them, with fresh water at all times. Put high and low roosts across the yards, and hang a salt codfish for them to pick at will. A point in keeping pigeons is that the sexes must be equal, as an extra male will break up the matings. Only an expert can tell the cocks from the hens when the birds are quiet. They must be kept clean and free from lice.

POULTRY-HOUSE AND SCRATCHING-SHED.

The design of poultry-house is one containing large windows to admit plenty of light and heat during the day. It may be of any size. A feature is the small and low shed, which is intended simply as a resort in the winter for scratching. It is made low, not only to cheapen the cost, but



also because it is a better protection against winds than one that is higher. The shed has a ground floor, and should contain leaves or cut straw, into which a handful of millet-seed should be thrown, as an inducement for the hens to scratch. The roof and sides of both the house and shed may be covered with tarred paper or some similar roofing-material, which will permit of the use of cheap lumber in its construction.

BRAN FOR POULTRY.

Bran is excellent for poultry, and one point in favor of bran is that it contains a much larger proportion of lime than any other cheap food derived from grain, and as the shells of eggs are composed of lime it is essential that food rich in lime be provided. It may be urged that the use of oyster-shells will provide lime, but it will be found that it is the lime in the food that is most serviceable, because it is in a form that can be better digested and assimilated than carbonate of lime. Clover is also rich in lime, and when a mass of cut clover and bran is given the fowls they will need no oyster-shells or other mineral matter as a source from which to provide lime for the shells of eggs. Do not forget that in summer, however, the use of all kinds of foods should be used with judgment. If the hens have a free range give no food at all as long as they are laying, but if they begin to fall off let bran be a leading ingredient of the foods allowed. In winter the bran and clover is even more essential, as the fowls cannot then secure green food on the range.

UTILIZING INCUBATOR EGGS.

Eggs are expensive food for chickens, but when an incubator is used the clear ones are sometimes given as food, but usually cooked hard. This is a mistake. The best mode of feeding eggs to chickens is to pour boiling water on the eggs, heat them, and thicken the mess to a stiff dough with corn-meal. Fed in this manner constipation will be avoided, but they should not be used oftener than every other day, giving them at night. Hard-boiled eggs are excellent, but they are usually fed too liberally and cause bowel disease.

FAT HENS BRING GOOD PRICES.

With all the abuse that can be heaped upon a fat hen because she does not lay she brings more in the market than any other kind of poultry except the turkey, and at times the difference in favor of the turkey is very little. As the consumers are willing to pay good prices for fat hens, it is best to sell them as soon as they cease laying, if in a very fat condition, as the time required to get such hens to the proper condition for laying again may be weeks, or even months. The best time to sell is when you have the article the consumer requires, and at the present time the fat hen is in demand.

HOLIDAY SALES AND REDUCED FLOCKS.

The holidays still keep up their reputation as periods for feasting on poultry, and shipments have been heavy. While there have been many sacrifices made by farmers who received little or nothing for the poor stock sent to market, yet there is the bright side to these annual wholesale shipments, and that is the thinning out of the flocks. Farmers who have been carrying more fowls than they had the room to provide for will now get more eggs at less expense. If there was also a mid-summer "unloading" of surplus fowls it would be probably more beneficial than to retain them.

CHINA EGGS INJURIOUS.

A china egg in a nest is always of the same temperature as the atmosphere; hence, when the thermometer records zero the egg is also zero. The temperature of the body of a hen is about 102 degrees. When a hen goes on a nest to lay, and her body (the naked portion) comes in contact with the ice-cold substance, it is torture, and she also loses heat and becomes chilled. It does not pay to use food for warming china or glass eggs by the hens. Cover them with white flannel or some other material.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Geese.—M. T. E., Tuckahoe, Tenn., writes: "Which are the largest breed of geese?"
REPLY:—The Embden and Toulouse; the former being entirely white, and the latter partly-colored.

Leghorns.—S. L. R., Milford, Iowa, writes: "Is it a sign of impurity for white feathers to show on a Brown Leghorn?"

REPLY:—White feathers frequently appear on Brown Leghorns; it is a defect, but does not indicate impurity.

Growing Foods on the Farm.—J. T. S., Adams, Ill., writes: "Will it pay to grow foods on the farm to be utilized for poultry, or is it cheaper to buy the food?"

REPLY:—Some foods, such as grain and clover, are always plentiful, but a patch of buckwheat, sunflower-seeds, sorghum and soja-beans might be grown in order to afford a variety. The best food is meat, which must be purchased.

Lining a Poultry-house.—E. E. R., Drake, Mo., writes: "In using building-paper or tarred felt for lining a poultry-house, how should such work be done to the best advantage?"

REPLY:—The tarred felt should be placed on the outside of the boards, so as to completely protect from dampness. The appearance may not be attractive, but the house will be more comfortable.

Crossing Turkeys.—R. M., Garnett, Kan., writes: "How should crosses of turkeys be made so as to make sure of infusing new blood every year?"

REPLY:—First, use a Bronze gobbler with a common flock of hens. The second year use a White Holland gobbler, and the third year get a half-wild gobbler, going back to the Bronze the fourth year. The gobbler should be two years old, and should be used only one year.

FARM FENCES.

The worm, staked and ridged, or post and rail fences that satisfied our fathers are fast giving way to wire fences in all sections of the country, and it has now come to a point where wire is the only material considered by the progressive, up-to-date farmer when it comes to the fence question.

Every farmer should remember that the Page Fence, made by the Page Woven Wire Fence Co., of Adrian, Mich., must not be confounded with the inferior grades of wire fencing that some adventurers are trying to foist upon farmers. It is high up among the standard fences of the world, and is as cheap as any other good woven wire fence. Remember, it is made entirely from hard spring-steel wire, coiled without twisting, and galvanized, and that two men can, without previous experience, easily erect a mile in one day after the posts are set. There could not be a better fence.

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MAKE HENS LAY when Eggs are high. — You can do it. — This Priceless Secret of Success with Poultry is fully told in our New Poultry Book which is sent Free as a Premium with our Poultry Paper 3 mos for 10 cents. Address, W. P. CO., Clintonville, Conn.

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ACTUAL POULTRY FACTS A beautiful book describing over 50 varieties of Chickens, Ducks, Turkeys, & Geese. All of the LEADING BREDS illustrated in colored engravings. Gives prices of fowls and eggs, much valuable information, many recipes for diseases. Sent to any address for 10 cts. **J. R. BRABAZON, JR. & CO.,** 2211 DELAVAN, Wis.

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A SURE WINNER. OUR SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR will prove it if you use it. Send 6c for new 128 page catalogue and study the merits of our machines. Has valuable points on artificial incubation and poultry culture generally. We manufacture a greater variety of Incubators and Brooders than any other firm. Sizes 50 to 800. Prices from \$8.00 to \$70.00. **DES MOINES I.C.B. CO.,** Box 61 DES MOINES, IOWA.

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Great Egg Makers

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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of **FARM AND FIRESIDE**, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Soja-bean.—P. W., Mt. Grove, Mo. For the information desired about the soja, or soy, bean, see article on page 4, November 1st number of **FARM AND FIRESIDE**. Nearly all seedsmen list the soja-bean in their catalogue.

Lawn Seeding.—R. H. M., Pottersville, Mass., writes: "Tell me how to sow a lawn in the spring. Would it be better to mix the grass-seed with bone-meal and ashes, or to sow the seed clear?"

Reply.—Sow the seed separately at the rate of four bushels of blue-grass and four pounds of white clover to the acre. This heavy seeding on finely prepared soil in early spring will give you a good lawn by mid-summer. If the season is not unfavorable, apply liberally fine-ground bone-meal, m-leached hard-wood ashes and nitrate of soda.

Drainage and Celery.—Mrs. W. J., of Colorado, writes: "We intend to buy a house and two lots situated between two gradual slopes, a small creek making one lot quite marshy. Please tell me the best way to drain it, and what it will cost. Also what is the most profitable crop to grow on such a piece of ground, this being probably quite rich. Does celery require very dry ground? When should seed be sown and plants be set?"

Reply by T. GREINER.—Drainage has to be accomplished by cutting off the source of supply; as, for instance, by a ditch along the higher portion of the lot, and then providing an outlet at the lower end. How to do this, or what it will cost, nobody can tell except he be acquainted with all the circumstances. Neither can anybody not on the ground tell what crop would most likely succeed or be most profitable. Celery requires rich, moist, but well-drained soil. We sow seed for early crop under glass latter part of February. Set the plants in cold frames in April, and in open ground in May or early June.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of **FARM AND FIRESIDE** answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

Note.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Possibly Swine-plague.—M. S., Urbana, Ill. Such morbid changes as you describe—numerous small hemorrhagic effusions or ecchymoses—are sometimes found in cases of swine-plague (so-called hog-cholera).

Garget.—J. L., Sunrise City, Minn. If one quarter of the udder of your cow is dry, and the teat and the glandular tissue already hard (indurated), the milk production in that quarter cannot be restored, and the best you can do is to leave it alone.

Old Saddle-gall.—O. L. G., Derby, Ind. Have the puffy saddle-gall of two years' standing operated on by a competent veterinarian, do not ride the horse until a perfect healing has been effected, and after that use a saddle that fits, is high enough in the chamber and does not slip; also do not use any saddle-blanket that contains seams, draws into folds or is dirty. A good felt blanket is the best.

Probably a Defective Tooth.—W. F. B., Breckinridge, Col. Your cow, of which you say that she "chews and spits up her food in chunks as big as an egg," has either a defective tooth or else there is some obstacle in the posterior part of the cavity of her mouth obstructing the passage of the esophagus and preventing the swallowing of a good-sized morsel. Have her mouth and all of her molars examined by a competent person.

An Inflamed Pastern.—J. P. F., Grape-land, Texas. No wonder that the phalangeal joints of your mare's foot are sore and inflamed, if you let her run out with a chain buckled around the pastern. Give the animal strict rest, and make to the sores twice a day a liberal application of the mixture recommended in third column in this answer to L. B. O., or else dress the sores, if they are deep, with a mixture of equal parts by weight of iodoform and tannic acid.

Vitiated Appetite.—E. F. F., Earlville, Ill. Your cow with her vitiated appetite for harness, old leather, rags, bones, etc., is kept on food that is lacking in necessary constituents, particularly nitrogenous compounds, phosphates and lime salts. First change her diet, and feed, besides some other food, a great deal of bran (not shorts) and clover hay. If this is not sufficient, and the "habit" already too strong, ask a veterinarian to give her once a day, for three or four days in succession, an hypodermic injection of three grains of apomorphinum hydrochloricum.

Lame in Fore Foot—Walks Like a Drunken Man.—E. E. W., Middleton, Idaho. You say that your bay mare is lame in a fore foot, and that she shows the lameness only when she trots, but nothing more. I cannot make a diagnosis and give advice upon such meager information. In regard to your buckskin mare your information is equally insufficient. You say she walks like a drunken man, reels and throws her feet crossways, but do not say whether she acts that way with the hind legs, with the fore legs or with all four. The trouble very likely is of a paralytic character and incurable.

Itching.—J. O. D., Keogan, Wis. It is evident that your horse rubs himself because he experiences an itching sensation, but what causes the latter is another question which cannot be answered from your brief statement. Itching may have various causes; for

instance, may be produced by lice, an accumulation of dirt, various cutaneous eruptions, including mange. The treatment in all cases consists in removing or destroying the cause; but in order to do this the latter must first be ascertained. If you make a close examination, you may, perhaps, be able to find the cause yourself. If not, have the animal examined by a veterinarian.

Thrush—Succulent Gums—Possibly One or More Defective Teeth—Probably Lousy.—M. R., Gladstone, N. D. Concerning the lameness of your mare, first ascertain where the lameness is, or else give an intelligent description of all the peculiarities of the same. In regard to the "rotten" condition of the sole and frog of the front feet, consult answer given to A. M. S., Big Sandy, Tenn., in third column.—Succulent gums are natural in young horses and nothing morbid. —Your old mare, "with somewhat of a parrot mouth," has probably one or more defective teeth. Examine every tooth in her mouth, and if you find one badly decayed have it pulled, or if one is too long have it shortened, etc.—If the same mare always rubs herself, she probably has a dirty skin and needs grooming, or perhaps she is lousy.

Several Questions.—T. J. B., Callhan, Col. 1. If the parts of the foot which produce the horn of the hoof were injured by the wire fence, and have been replaced by scar-tissue, you can do nothing except keeping the animal always well shod, having the shoeing done by a horseshoer who understands his business, and having the shoes reset once a month. 2. The proper age for a young mare to be bred, although to a certain extent depending upon the breed and the early or late development of the animal, as a general rule, may be set down as four years. If a young mare is bred before the same is sufficiently developed, not only her growth and development will be interfered with, but the colt produced also is apt to be deficient in its vitality and in its proportions. 3. It is not advisable to breed a small mare to a big, heavy horse. Where it is done unharmonious product and difficult parturition are often the result.

So-called Scratches.—I. B. O., Tuskeego, Iowa. What you describe appears to be an old, inveterate case of so-called scratches, and the present condition of the affected parts seems to be that of incipient elephantiasis. First, the existing sores have to be brought to a healing. You will probably succeed in this if you make twice a day to every sore a liberal application of a mixture of liquid subacetate of lead, one part, and olive-oil, three parts. To remove the swelling will be more difficult. You will, however, be able to permanently reduce it just as much as it can be temporarily diminished by a daily exercise, but not more. After the sores have healed, exercise the mare in daytime; after the exercise give the swelled parts a good (not violent) rubbing, then put on as smooth as possible a bandage of woolen flannel of sufficient length, and of three to three and one half inches in width; begin the winding at the hoof, and keep the bandage on until morning. After the bandage has been taken off, give the swelled parts again a good rubbing, the same as in the evening, and then exercise the mare like the day before. Continue this treatment, exercise in daytime, and bandage during the night, until it becomes evident that no more reduction can be effected.

Clonic Spasms in Motory Muscles.—W. H. P., Kackley, Kan. What you describe appears to be clonic spasms in the motory muscles. As such cases are of comparatively rare occurrence but very little is known in regard to their causes, and it is utterly impossible to assign a cause in any special case unless a thorough examination of the animal, an observation of an attack and an inquiry into the history of the case can be made. It is perfectly useless to resort to any medication as long as the cause is not known, because the only rational treatment has to consist in removing the cause. In such, or similar cases, it sometimes happens that the spasms more or less gradually disappear, and that the horse recovers without any treatment. Where this happens it must be supposed that the cause has disappeared or has ceased to act. In other cases such spasms have resisted any treatment, so that finally the horse either died or had to be killed. If you had given the history of the case, had stated how long the animal has been thus affected, how the spasms first came on, whether they developed gradually or more or less suddenly after a case of sickness, etc., I might have been able to give you some advice, but as it is, I cannot. If you are not too far from Manhattan, Riley county, Kan., it may pay you to have your horse examined by Professor Dr. Paul Fischer, of the Kansas State Agricultural College, at Manhattan, who is one of the best veterinarians in the United States.

Worms.—F. H. B., Mooreton, N. D. The large worms of horses (Ascaris megaloccephala), which inhabit the small intestines, and, where present in large numbers, the stomach, are perhaps best removed by means of tartar emetic. For a good-sized horse the doses intended for this purpose is about three drams, to be given in the shape of pills or boli in combination with powdered licorice-root (glycyrrhiza), powdered marsh-mallow-root, of each half an ounce, and just enough water to make two pretty stiff medium-sized pills, to be given in the morning on an empty stomach. After the medicine has been given in the morning, the horse should not be fed until about noon. One or two days later the same treatment may be repeated. In giving the pills care must be taken to shove them down to the esophagus, so that they do not get stuck between the teeth, for if they do the tartar emetic will be apt to cause soreness in the gums. As to the small worms of horses, several species occur in the large intestines. The most frequent among them is probably the one known as Sclerostomum equinum in its mature form. These worms are best removed by a few injections of a pint of raw linseed-oil into the rectum of the horse, say once a day on three or four successive days. In order to make them the most effective, they should be made just after the horse has voided excrements. Still, any medicinal treatment will be of very little consequence unless the horse, at the same time, is also as much as possible protected against any new invasion of worm-brood by being kept on sound and sufficiently nutritious food and pure and uncontaminated water, but particularly by not being allowed to drink any surface water, or water from ditches and pools apt to contain the worm-brood. Besides this, as it is a well-known fact that nearly all parasites thrive the better the more reduced, or weak, the organism of their host, it is advisable and a means of protection to keep the horses, and other domestic animals, too, at all times in a first-class condition.

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CHRISTMAS WITH MY OLD MOTHER.

Oh! I never felt so happy as upon last Christmas night, Coming near the little home where mother lives, The familiar scenes of boyhood, and the window with the light, And the joy anticipation ever gives. Eager fingers tingled gladly as I opened the old gate, And my feet, impatient, hurried to the door; But her ear had caught my footsteps, and her love remembered well; On the threshold mother met me as of yore.

Oh! I clasped her to my bosom, as she used to clasp her boy, While her tears and loving kisses answered mine. Then she led me to the table, where the good things kept for me Were all waiting with the chair of auld lang syne. She remembered ev'rything I liked, and how to make it best, Serving me as though my place were still a child's: Cakes and jellies, home-made candy, and ev'ry choicest thing. Heaped before me with caresses and her smiles.

Oh! I seemed a very boy again, as we sat talking there, And she told how she had thought of, prayed for me; How I'd been a joy and comfort to her all her widowed life; And her spirit, like an angel's, I could see. How in ev'ry whistling boy that passed she heard me coming home, So she had love-waited for me all the years; Then, arising from the table, she would stand caressing me. As she breathed on me a blessing through her tears.

When I went to bed she came to me and tucked the covers around, In the dear old way that only mothers know. Oh! I felt so blissful, peaceful, and so full of tender love. That all silent came my glad heart's overflow. Happy, grateful, joyful tears I shed; aye, cried myself to sleep, Dreaming in a heav'nly dreamland free from cares; In my boyhood home and bed again, the covers tucked around, Safely guarded by my dear old mother's prayers. —By Lu B. Cake, in Harper's Bazar.

THE ROAD COMMISSIONER

BY ANNIE M. BURKE.

CHAPTER VI.

In the meantime affairs in the Franklin family were getting worse all the time. Ernestine and her father were cold and unfriendly to each other, and the whole family was troubled and anxious and depressed. There was no more singing and whistling, no more romping and playing and bolsters' fun. Mr. Franklin came into his meals with a frown on his face, and went out with it deepened. The two little girls, Ruthie and Maimie, cried and complained about how ugly it had got to be at our house, while the five older girls were sometimes shocked at how cross and disagreeable they had grown to be toward each other.

No one suffered so much from this condition of things as Mr. Franklin did. The big farm-house, with the seven noisy, jolly girls in it, had always been dear to the lonely widower. It was his kingdom, his world, what he lived and worked for. When his peace here was destroyed there seemed little or nothing left. Just lately, too, he had noticed a change in the attitude of most of the girls toward him. At first, when the trouble began, they had sympathized with him, and had disapproved of Ernestine. They had thought it most shocking of her to stand so by Ollie against father. But now they had changed, they had turned against him, and he knew it. Not that they said anything to that effect; on the contrary, they were most respectful and obedient to him, but that was all, and he had always wanted love more than respect and obedience from his girls.

Now he knew that they discussed him together. He knew as well as if he heard them talking that they were saying he was too hard upon Ernestine, that it was wrong to have made her promise against Ollie, when she cared so much. He knew, too, that they blamed him with the quarrel in the blacksmith-shop, and that they said among themselves that he was always quarrelsome over the spring elections and disposed to fight with the man who ran against him.

"They've turned on me," he was wont to say to himself, with a feeling of mingled bitterness and sadness. "Yes, they've turned against me on account of Ernestine—love-sick little hussy! They think their old father isn't right, that he doesn't know how to guide them any more! They were nicer when they were little—them seven girls!" he would always conclude. "They trusted me then, and thought I was all right. Yes, they were nicer when they were little." And in thinking thus he was but coming to a conclusion that many another father has come to.

But after awhile he began to get into quarrels with them. They had endured his crossness and arbitrariness at first, but now they began to answer back. One day he lost his rubber boots, and blamed Debby with having put them away where they could not be found.

"Indeed I didn't! I haven't seen them for weeks!" protested Deb. "You've lost them, anyway!" snarled her father.

"I have not!" said Deb. But he paid no attention to the statement. "You take a mania every once in awhile for putting the house in order," he said. "You move everything you can lay your hands on, and you don't leave a boot or a shoe in sight! You're good for nothing but disturbing things. A child of ten should certainly know more about keeping house than you do!"

Deb did not answer back any more. She shut her lips tightly, and was very angry. She was the eldest of the seven, and her housekeeping had been her particular pride. She would remember this against him as long as she lived—what he had said about her housekeeping.

After that, Deb, as much as Ernestine, was "out with father." Then a few days later he quarreled with Mollie and Jen. He had been to town, and returned late. It was after dark when he came into the house and stormily inquired why certain chores had not been done in his absence.

"What were you two a-doing all day that you haven't the sows slopped?" he bearishly demanded of Mollie and Jen. "Do you think I can stay in town till after dark, and then come home and slop sows?"

"We didn't know you were going to stay late!" cried Mollie and Jen, indignantly. "You didn't tell us! How were we to know they weren't fed, when you didn't mention anything about it?"

"How were you to know? What are your wits for? If you have to be told everything, what use are you? I'd as lief have nobody on the farm as two such lazy hussies!" And he disappeared with the swill-pails, leaving Mollie in tears and Jen in a rage, over what he had said.

"I sha'n't stand it!" Jen cried. "Mollie and I have worked hard all day, and he just abuses us! I sha'n't stand it!" she said, in a manner indicating revenge.

Mollie, for all her tears, was of the same mind, and both of them after that were "turned on" him, to use his own expression, in the same manner that Deb and Ernestine

Jessie made no answer, and he again demanded, very impatiently this time, "What's the matter with you?"

Still Jessie would not speak. Then he caught her by the arm and drew her up to a window. He looked into her face. Jessie's face was a pitiable sight. Her hands had been soiled from handling the potatoes, and the clay and the tears had made a sorry mixture.

"Now tell me what you're crying for!" he demanded, peremptorily.

Still Jessie only sobbed. He shook her slightly. "Tell me, this minute!" he insisted.

"It's—it's about our folks!" sobbed out Jessie, at last. "They're all so dismal and cross and miserable! It isn't nice at our house any more, and I'm tired! I—I—can't stand it any longer!" she said, amid her sobs and tears.

"And is that all you're making this fuss about?" he snorted.

"No, there—there was more!"

"Out with it, then!" he commanded, in a rough tone.

"It's—it's about Ernestine!" sobbed the miserable Jessie. "I worry about her all the time. She's got so pale and thin, and she's so quiet all the time! I'm afraid—afraid she'll die!"

She had touched his own sore spot now, and his face contracted nervously. "Stop this sniveling!" he said, harshly. "If the house isn't pleasant enough to suit you, set about being cheerful yourself and make it right. Anyhow, stop this crying!"

Jessie only sobbed the harder.

"As for Ernestine," he continued, "she's nothing but a love-sick little hussy, and the less attention you give her the better! Do you hear me? The less attention you pay her the better!"

He shook her slightly again, and once more bade her quit crying. He then picked up his jug and started away just as the remaining six girls with bulging eyes came trooping down the cellar steps to see what the noise was all about, having heard the voices in the room above. Their stupid curiosity exasperated him, and as he left the cellar he promptly ordered them to go back up-stairs and mind their work. They stopped short on the steps till he was gone, then immediately went to Jessie. In a little while they had got from her all that had passed between her and her father.

"How mean of father to shake you so!" exclaimed Jen, indignantly. "It's because we're girls that he tramples on us this

chair and kiss him good-night. Every one walked sullenly past. At the door Ernestine turned her head and looked back at him. "How lonesome he looks!" she thought, "sitting there all alone! I wonder if he minds our neglecting him much."

In the hall she hesitated. On the stairs she walked very slowly and hesitated still more. "He did look so lonely!" she thought. Then she suddenly gave her lamp to Mollie, and turned back. "I'll be along in a minute!" she said.

She sped down the stairs, along the hall and on into the room where they had left their father. He still sat there by the lamp with his paper. On his face there was a nervous frown and a look of anxiety, but Ernestine did not notice this. She went right up to his chair.

"I don't want to see you look so lonely, father," she said, simply. "I'll kiss you good-night!"

She stooped and kissed him, then immediately went away again. He did not have time to reply, to say anything to her at all; but a big lump came into his throat, and tears to his eyes. He got up from the table unsteadily and moved about the room in a wandering manner.

"My good little Ernestine!" he murmured. "My good little Ernestine!"

He went out into the dooryard, and walking up and down the path to the gate, he still murmured, "My good little Ernestine—my good little Ernestine! She's the best of the seven! I always knew it! I used to tell her mother so!"

He stopped to fill and light his pipe, then went on. "She didn't want her old father to feel lonely! She's the only one of 'em that cared, and she's the only one of 'em I ever really injured, too! My little Ernestine!"

When he was tired walking up and down he went and leaned on the gate at the end of the path, and stayed there thinking a long time. The seven girls must long since have been asleep when at last he got up and turned toward the house.

"If it was any one but that Ferguson!" he muttered. "If it was any one on earth but him, I'd—I'd give in!"

And many times that night, as he lay trying to sleep, and the next day, while working in the field, he would repeat this, "If it was any one on earth but Ferguson—any one but him—I'd give in!"

And then he would fall to thinking of the election where Ollie had beaten him so shamelessly—the only time he had been beaten in Poplar Grove township.

But on toward evening, about "quitting-time," he stopped thinking about it, for he had come to a conclusion.

It was Tuesday, the regular evening for singing-school. The girls got supper over earlier than usual, then hurried up-stairs to get ready. They were just in the midst of the hair-curling and dress-doung, when Mr. Franklin came to the foot of the stairs and called Jessie.

"I want you to come and stand at the cow-yard gate, and keep back the calves while I drive out the cows!" he said.

"Oh, what shall I do?" said Jessie, dismayed. "My hair's all down, and I'm late besides! Can't Jen go, father? She's almost ready!"

"Yes, I'll go," said Jen, immediately. And she came to the top of the stairs to tell Mr. Franklin.

But Mr. Franklin frowned. "Tie up your hair somehow and come on!" he ordered Jessie. And she obeyed.

"How mean of him to make Jessie go!" said Deb, when they were gone. "She's so late, and her hair all down!"

"Yes, and I could have gone as well as not!" said Jen.

In the meantime Jessie, stick in hand, stood guard at the cow-yard gate. Her hair was long and abundant and the wind tossed it about wildly. "I'll never get the snails out!" she thought. But she kept the calves back without fail, handling her stick with the skill of one well used to the work. When the cows were all through she threw down her weapon and turned to go, but her father stopped her.

"I have a word to say," he said. And he came up to her in the dim light of the evening.

"It's about Ernestine that I wish to speak to you!" he said. "I suppose she's breaking her heart for that young Ferguson yet, isn't she?"

Jessie hesitated, wondering. "Yes, sir; I think so, sir," she said. "That is, I think she cares for him yet."

"I thought so. Well, what I want is this: you tell her from me that she may have him back if she wants to. I give back the promise. Tell her she may make up with him again—"

"Oh, father!" cried Jessie, on the verge of ecstasies, "you don't mean it! You don't mean—"

"Listen to me!" he interrupted. "Tell her I don't want to see much of the fellow yet awhile. I can't stand to have him around me just yet; but tell her she may have him back and make up as soon as she likes; I give back the promise. Do you hear what I say?"



"I'LL KISS YOU GOOD-NIGHT."

SHE RAN UP BEHIND, AND SLAPPED HIM HEARTILY ON THE BACK.

were; that is, they took care to be civil and respectful to him, but showed him none of the old-time affection and kindness.

Very soon Ruthie and Maimie began following the example of their older sisters. Personally they had no especial grievance against their father, but whatever the big girls thought and did, that was what Ruthie and Maimie were going to think and do, too. So they, also, began treating their father stiffly and suspiciously. This left only Jessie who was on good terms with him. She was the only one to speak kindly to him and wait upon him, and at bedtime she alone stopped at his chair to kiss him good-night.

This state of things lasted a long time—so long that the girls thought it would never change. But it changed. One day Mr. Franklin came across Jessie in the cellar, crying. He had gone down to find a jug of linseed oil which he had left there. While searching about for it in the dim light he suddenly came upon Jessie, with a pan half full of potatoes in her lap, sitting on the potato-bin, sobbing and rubbing her eyes.

"What's the matter with you?" he asked, harshly. He was in the bearish, irritable mood most common to him now.

way. If we were seven young men, depend upon it, he wouldn't treat us so! He wouldn't shake us much, I guess!" And Jen went over and wiped Jessie's face with her own clean gingham apron.

"But the idea of his calling Ernestine a love-sick hussy!" put in Deb. "Think of it—a love-sick hussy!"

"But shaking Jessie so!" said Jen. "That was the worst. As if she was a little child, instead of a great girl of sixteen! I wouldn't stand it, Jessie!"

"Indeed I sha'n't!" declared Jessie. "I shall be out with him after this just the same as the rest of you are! Now wait and you'll see!"

"Then there won't be one of us to be on good terms with him!" cried Mollie, looking around on the group. "Not one of us to be friendly with father!"

No one replied to this except the rebellious Jen. "Maybe he'll learn to treat us better, then!" she muttered, frowningly. And a little later they trooped back up the cellar steps, Jen in the lead, and Deb herself carrying Jessie's pan half full of potatoes.

That night at bedtime there was not one girl of the seven to stop at Mr. Franklin's

"You're the best old fellow that ever lived!" cried Jessie, making toward him.

But he did not want any effusions just then, and he turned his back on her and began shutting the gate. But Jessie was not half-dressed. She ran up behind him, and slapped him heartily on the back. "You're the best old fellow that ever lived! We'll pay you back for this! You'll see!" she threatened, joyously. And then she sped back to the house, her long hair flying.

Mr. Franklin was cheered in spite of himself. "You're the best old fellow that ever lived!"—the words sounded good in his ears, and the jolly, boisterous slap on his shoulder—he could feel it yet! It was the way he had always wanted his girls to be—jolly and boisterous, and this spirit had been so long put down among them.

When he returned to the house it was all empty and still, for the girls had gone on to singing-school. He sat down alone to read, as usual. He was rather sad now.

"They'll be sure to see Ferguson at singing-school to-night," he thought; "and Ernestine'll tell him I've given in, or if she don't, that interfering little Jessie'll run and tell him for her! Then they'll all make up with him and have a good time, and they'll forget about their old father. It's other men—young fellows—they have in their heads nowadays, anyway! If they can just get their own way out of me, it's all they want of me!"

With this gloomy reflection he settled himself among his newspapers and other periodicals for the evening. One hour—two hours passed; then when it came near ten o'clock he heard voices approaching the gate. It was the girls coming back, and they were singing a hilarious boating-song which they had been learning at singing-school. The song was high and lively and suited to their voices. Mr. Franklin's face brightened as he listened, for he loved to hear them so merry again. When they reached the gate the singing stopped, but the talking and jesting went on. Then suddenly, as they came up the path, he heard Ollie's gay voice and his light laugh ring out among them. He started back as if struck.

"He's there!" he thought. "They needn't have been in such a hurry bringing him here! I gave my consent, of course, but they needn't have been in such a hurry!"

But the girls must have had the consideration not to invite Ollie, in to-night, for the seven were quite alone when they entered the house. Ernestine, coming in last, immediately took off her hat and went over to her father. She knelt beside his chair and turned her face up to him. She kept her eyelids cast down, and a tear glistened on one cheek, but there was happiness on every feature.

He looked down upon her rather sadly for a few seconds; then he spoke.

"I suppose that fellow made you promise to marry him, to-night?" he said.

"Yes, sir," murmured Ernestine.

There was another silence; then he spoke again. "Well, you're my own little girl, and I want you to be happy," he said. And he kissed her.

Ernestine arose from her knees; then the other six rushed upon him, kissing and hugging him in their most boisterous fashion till he was half smothered.

"We've been a mean set to treat you so!" cried Deb.

"But you'll see how good we'll be for this!" said Mollie.

"And we'll keep Ollie in his place! We'll make him mind! You'll see, father!" shouted Jen.

Then they released him, and soon afterward flocked away to bed, it being late. Going up the stairs they fell to singing the jolly boating-song again. They sang it out loud and full and joyously till the farm-house rang. Their father, down in the sitting-room with his paper, heard them, and was satisfied.

"It does me good to hear them," he said to himself. "It'll be hard to stand Ferguson, but I'll put up with him somehow; I can't be out with those girls!"

THE END.

BICYCLE ADVERTISING IN WINTER.

No better proof of the efficacy of continuous advertising is needed than the fact that the Brown-Lewis Cycle Company, of Chicago, one of the largest bicycle corporations, finds it profitable to advertise bargains in bicycles even now when there is (and will be for months to come) snow on the ground. Bicycles will sell even out of season if proper inducements are offered. This company has built up a very large business by selling direct to consumers good wheels at low prices and guaranteeing satisfaction to every purchaser. Any other advertiser who conducts his business on similar principles can meet with the same success.

"Inclosed find order for 25 Peerless Atlas, with 25 WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION subscriptions to match, and money for same. The Atlas takes freely. Look out for more orders from me at once. The new Alaska and Klondike department is a grand help to agents."—E. F. Cole, Strang, Nebraska.

THE "AMERICAN": AN ADDRESS TO IMMIGRANTS.

There seems to be a good deal of doubt as to what an American is. The native Indian does not exactly fill the bill, even when he is improved. In fact, when he is much improved he disappears. It was thought by some at one time that to be an American one had to be born in New England, or to have come there at a very early day, with the serious intention of having everybody who was just right born there after the date of 1621. But the Dutch of New York, and the Germans of Pennsylvania, and the French of Louisiana, seem to have had different ideas about it. As, sometimes, it seems to be an easy way to settle the question by declaring that no one not born in Ireland is an American, but this would justly offend the Germans and irritate a considerable portion of our rural population who do not enjoy city government. Ability to read the constitution of the United States, coupled with a short residence, seemed to answer, until we discovered that ability to understand it did not go with the accomplishment of reading, and still less of obeying or accepting its spirit. With an increasing number of people America is a sort of go-as-you-please place, where every man is a law unto himself, and every woman, also, and it is a very un-American thing to interfere with the indulgence of any sort of vagary. In short, it is a left-over region that belongs to everybody, and he is the most American who exercises utmost license in speech and conduct. Consequently it is a surprise to many who arrive that they find they have brought with them some rights that they had run away from; namely, the right to be imprisoned or to be hung for disobeying the laws.

It may not be possible to define exactly what an American is, still less to describe the American spirit, about which we hear so much and which is so variously conceived. But it is time that one thing were very clearly understood by all the newcomers who purpose to favor us with their society, and that is that the country is already made, and is not waiting for them to make it. That it is just as much a nation, with as well-defined and as distinct a political life and purpose as Germany, or England, or France. This fact clearly understood will save the newcomers a great deal of trouble. In our federal system and our local self-government we find the American idea, and it is just as different from the license and the socialism which some conceive to be the American idea as can be. It is useless for foreign newcomers to butt their heads against this idea; it will injure their heads.—Terre Haute (Ind.) Gazette.

THE HEART OF THE ATHLETE.

Opinions vary as to the safety with which women may indulge in violent exercises in view of the possible injury to the pelvic organs; and concerning the possible harm to prostatic parts which may befall men in cycling. As far as the heart is concerned, however, there has been but one opinion; namely, that the heart accustomed to a quiet life may be dangerously and permanently crippled by excessive strain in these sports. Experience in medical practice teaches that the patient with compensated heart leak or other enfeebling disease must be extremely cautious in his exercises. The demonstration of a dilation of the healthy heart under sudden violent exhausting efforts in these lines comes somewhat as a surprise. Yet there seems to be no doubt that it does occur. A number of clinical observers in Germany, England and elsewhere have detected by percussion and observation of the change in the point of apex beat that both ventricles of the heart dilate under these circumstances and remain dilated for a longer or shorter time after the exercise is over. In the "Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift" Dr. Schott, of Bad Nauheim, brings to the aid of the diagnostician the Röntgen ray, affording ocular proof of the enlargement in the dimensions of the ventricles. He shows by such photographs that the shadow image of the dilated right ventricle first returns to normal dimensions as respiration becomes natural. The bulging left ventricle, however, which may reach so far to the left that its apex beats outside the nipple, has been found still dilated eighteen minutes after cessation of effort. This shows the need of caution by all.—Maryland Medical Journal.

A GIRL'S TOILET.

A girl's every-day toilet is a part of her character. The maiden who is slovenly in the morning is not to be trusted, however well-dressed she may be in the evening. It is just as essential to be neat and tidy at the breakfast-table, and to appear well before one's own family, as it is to "dress up" for the drawing-room or the eyes of strangers. Every girl should make it a rule to take special pains with her morning toilet. A girl with any self-respect or sensitiveness at all could not but feel embarrassed and awkward if found in a soiled dress or unkempt hair should a stranger or neighbor happen in. Make it a point, then, to look as attractive as you can in the morning, and there will be no danger of slovenliness in the afternoon.—Christian Work.



COVER BY GIBSON

The Inner Experiences of a Cabinet Member's Wife

They are the actual social experiences of a prominent Cabinet member's wife. For this reason the authorship will be withheld. The most intimate peeps behind the curtain of high official and social life in Washington.

Lilian Bell

Reaches Paris in her "letter" in the January JOURNAL, and no American girl has ever written of the holiday city of Europe and the French people as she does in this letter. There is a dash in the letter which makes it, by far, the very best in the series, and gives a better idea what there is in store for those who follow Miss Bell's delightfully-unconventional letters of travel.

For 25 cents we will send *The Ladies' Home Journal* on trial for three months

ALSO, a handsome illustrated booklet containing our Prospectus for 1898, with portraits of famous writers and small reproductions of some of the illustrations that are to appear in the Journal in future numbers.

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A Midwinter Fiction Number

The first short story ever written by Clara Morris, the distinguished emotional actress. There will be a delightful story—"A Shy Man's Wooing"; a love story of the railroad—"The Hundred-Dollar Shortage," by Francis Lynde, and the first chapters of Hamlin Garland's novelette, "The Doctor."

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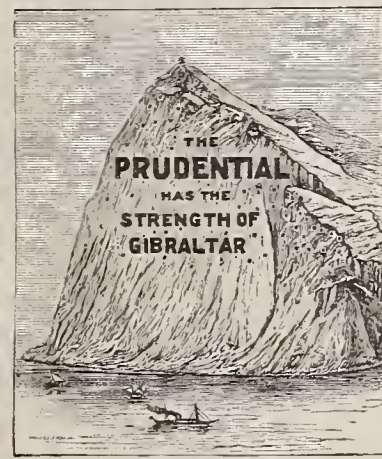
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LIFE INSURANCE under every approved form of contracts, in amounts and under conditions suited to all.

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POULTRY RAISERS' BARGAIN

The Poultry Keeper, Regular price, 50c.

This paper is devoted exclusively to poultry interests. It gives 16 pages and a cover monthly. Edited by P. H. Jacobs, one of the leading American authorities on poultry.

The P. K. Illustrator No. 1, Regular price, 25c.

It gives over 100 illustrations, with descriptions of poultry-houses, incubators, brooders, nests, fences, roosts, troughs, drinking-fountains, warning appliances, coops, etc., etc.

The P. K. Illustrator No. 2, Regular price, 25c.

It gives over 70 illustrations, with descriptions of Artificial Incubators; Raising the Chicks; What is an Egg; Testing Eggs, etc.

We will send the Poultry Keeper for one year, all four of the Poultry Keeper Illustrators, and Farm and Fireside one year, for 75c.

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The P. K. Illustrator No. 3, Regular price, 25c.

This book is devoted entirely to diseases of poultry and their remedies, as cholera, roop, canker, gapes, scaly legs, indigestion, egg-eating, lice, moulting, and other diseases.

The P. K. Illustrator No. 4, Regular price, 25c.

This book is devoted to the description of breeds, etc., including such subjects as the following: Description of Breeds; Judging Fowls; Cutting for Defects; Different Parts of the Body; How to Examine; What to Allow; Preparing for Shows; Judging Table-fowls; Pigeons for Market; Mating for the Show-room; Breeding for Points, etc., etc.

Farm and Fireside 1 Year, Regular price, 50c.

ALL SIX FOR 75 CTS.

When this offer is accepted it may count as ONE name in a club.

Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

AMERICA AHEAD OF THE WORLD IN WEALTH.

In the statistics furnished in an article in a recent number of the "North American Review," the following comparison is made, setting forth the great privileges and responsibility of American citizens.

"In America we spend \$2.40 a head on education, as against \$1.30 in England, 80 cents in France and 50 cents in Germany. We send 110 letters yearly through the post-office; Switzerland sends 70 and Great Britain sends 60.

"The daily working-power of the United States, estimated in foot-tons, amounts to 129,306,000,000; that is, 1,940 to the inhabitant. The absolute effective force of the American people to-day is more than three times what it was in the year 1860.

"Estimated in food, the labor of one man in the United States can supply food for 250 men. Such is the soil, climate, energy and diligence of the people. In Europe the labor of one man can only provide food for 30 men.

"Wealth has increased in 70 years, the Scriptural length of a man's life, from \$1,960,000,000 to \$65,037,000,000; that is, from \$205 a head of population in 1820 to \$1,039 in 1890.

"Americans have to-day the greatest productive power in the world. The accumulation a head of population in the ten years ending with 1890, was 11 cents daily for every inhabitant, a daily increase of wealth of \$7,000,000, which gives an additional \$41 to the inhabitant every year, while in England it is only \$24. It is probable that in the next census the wealth of the country will have attained the fabulous sum of ninety milliards, being more than double what it was fifteen years ago."

THRIFTY VINELAND.

In southeastern Washington, opposite to Lewiston, Idaho, in Lewiston valley, at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, a new interest has been growing quietly, unostentatiously, substantially, without any of the boom features of so many Western enterprises. Many nice cottages have sprung up, tens of thousands of fruit-trees have been planted, water has been brought many miles and courses streets and gardens, shade-trees have been planted, and everything says that Vineland, for so the colony is called, is building permanently.

The company controlling this property own 3,200 acres in their Vineland proposition, and 8,000 acres lie under the system. After all these lands have been watered by the company's irrigation system, surplus water will be at hand to turn the wheels of many enterprises. With a 300-foot head, after the entire 8,000 acres are watered, between 2,500 and 3,000 horse-power will remain to operate canneries, mills, factories, etc.

In March, 1896, operations were begun upon the canal, and in July water flowed into Vineland. From that date may be charged the development of the colony. Then the sale of lands began, a sale which has been phenomenal for these times, inasmuch as above 200 land-sale contracts were drawn in a little over a year. The company is not building a boom town; it is building a colony of farmers. A small area was laid out in town lots, and here will eventually develop a town. But the energy of the company was directed toward development of a prosperous producing community. The land has been laid out in tracts of 2½, 5 and 10 acres, and already scores of these have water running through and men and women at work upon them. To prevent boom, to prevent speculation, the most conservative safeguards are thrown into every contract, and the best lands are sold only for improvement.

All the fruits of this latitude flourish here. A late autumn, a mild winter, an early spring, afford the climatic conditions upon which the fruit-grower may depend. The apple, the pear and the apricot all do well. Cherries grow exceptionally well.

The present fall term of the two schools in Vineland began with over a hundred. Before another winter comes a four-room brick school-house will have been erected in a central locality. A flourishing Sunday-school is also maintained. There is a provision in all deeds and water-rights forever prohibiting the saloon.

To encourage thrift and industry and neatness, moreover, the promoters of this enterprise, known as the Lewiston Water and Power Company, offered cash prizes to be given last autumn to the best-kept and best-managed 10-acre tract, the best 5-acre one, and the best 2½-acre one. Prizes were also offered for the best showing in each of many varieties of vegetables.

A very strong point before the inquirer after Vineland is its climate. The company's plea is the "crisp, dry, calm, invigorating winters, pleasant, exhilarating, healthful. Little fog, little snow, and the mercury seldom below zero. No severe winds in winter, no cyclones, no blizzards, no snu strokes in summer."

Vineland is being well managed, but it is growing on merit, not management; on bounty, not boom.

FREE PATTERN CATALOGUE.

Our latest catalogue of cut paper patterns for fall and winter dresses will be sent free upon request. FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, O.

WHY LATIN IS USED.

The New York "Herald" publishes the following reply to the query why doctors use Latin, in writing their prescriptions, instead of English:

"In the first place Latin is a more exact and concise language than English, and, being a dead language, does not change, as all living languages do.

"Then, again, since a very large part of all drugs in use are botanical, they have in the pharmacopoeia the same names that they have in botany—the scientific names. Two thirds of such drugs haven't any English names, and so couldn't be written in English.

"But suppose a doctor should write a prescription in English for an uneducated patient. The patient reads it, thinks he remembers it, and so tries to get it filled from memory the second time. Suppose, for instance, it called for iodide of potassium, and he got it confused with cyanide of potassium. He could safely take a number of grains of the first, but one grain of the second would kill him.

"That's an extreme case, but it will serve for an illustration. Don't you see how the Latin is a protection and a safeguard to the patient? Prescriptions in Latin he can't read, and consequently does not try to remember.

"Now for a final reason. Latin is a language which is used by scientific men the world over, and no other language is. You can get a Latin prescription filled in any country on the face of the earth where there is a drug-store. We had a prescription here the other day which we had put up originally and which had since been stamped by druggists in London, Paris, Berlin, Constantinople, Cairo and Calcutta. What good would an English prescription be in St. Petersburg?"

MUSKETS.

While the introduction of portable firearms into Europe is of comparatively recent date, their use was frequent among the Mohammedans of Eastern Asia at a very early period. La Brocquiere, who made a journey to Jerusalem in the middle of the fifteenth century, and who traveled extensively in the East, mentions the firing of small harquebuses at the great festivals in Damascus.

The first use of muskets in Europe was at the siege of Rhege, in 1591, by the Spanish soldiers. These arms were so extremely heavy that they could not be used without a rest. They were provided with matchlocks, and were effective at a considerable distance. While on the march the soldiers themselves carried only the ammunition and the rests, and boys, bearing the muskets, followed after, like caddies on a golf-course.

Loading these cumbersome arms was a slow operation. They were clumsy and awkward to handle, the ball and powder were carried separately, and the preparation and adjustment of the match took a long time.

Before long, however, improvements began to be made. The guns became lighter in construction, and the soldiers carried their ammunition in broad shoulder-belts, called bandoliers, to which were suspended a number of little leather-covered wooden cases, each of which held a charge of powder. A pouch, in which the bullets were carried loose, and a priming-horn hung at the sides of the soldier.

As late as the time of Charles I. muskets with rests were still in use, and it was not until the beginning of the eighteenth century that firelocks were successfully employed.—Harper's Round Table.

OLD GREEK PAINTERS.

The methods of these ancient days were totally different from those of the present day and were evidently vastly more durable. Panels of wood were used to paint on, sycamore and cypress, also panels of papier-mache, and occasionally they were formed by gluing three thicknesses of canvas together. These panels were usually about 14 inches long by 7 inches wide. The artist used liquid wax instead of oil to mix the colors, which were made, not from vegetable, but from mineral substances, and were of marvelous brilliancy and permanence—blue powdered lapis lazuli, green malachite, red oxide of iron, etc. The colors were laid on in patches, somewhat after the fashion of a mosaic, and afterwards blended with an instrument called the cestrum, which appears to have been a lancet-shaped spatula, long-handled, with at one end a curved point, at the other end a finely dentated edge. With the toothed edge the wax could be equalized and smoothed, while the point was used for placing high lights, marking lips, eyebrows, etc.

The final process, which gives the name encaustic to this kind of painting, was the burning in of the colors. This was done by the application of a heated surface to the panel, though George Ebers believes that in Egypt the heat of the sun was probably all that was needed to complete the artist's work.—Monthly Illustrator.

"I enclose another list for WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION and Peerless Atlas," writes one of the best canvassers in America, from Philadelphia, where he has been operating with great success for months. "Peerless Atlas, with its new Klondike matter and other new features, is indeed a ready seller. It makes the work go easy."

Who Has the Oldest Sewing Machine?

A new "Singer" given in exchange for it.

We will give one hundred latest improved Singer Sewing Machines in even exchange for an equal number of the oldest sewing machines of any make, now in family use. Awards to be decided from applications sent to us before March 1, 1898. The new machines will be delivered within 30 days thereafter.

All you have to do is to send this information on a postal card: (1) your name; (2) location of your residence; (3) post-office address; (4) name of your machine; (5) its factory number; (6) length of time in use; (7) paper in which you saw this. Send details in this exact order on a postal card—don't send a letter—and put nothing else on the postal card but the information desired.

This is no guessing contest requiring a payment, a subscription, or a personal service of any sort. If you own an old sewing machine, you have only to send the requisite information in order to compete for a prize worth having. It costs absolutely nothing but a postal card, which may bring to your door the best sewing machine in the world in exchange for your old one.

THE SINGER MANUFACTURING CO.,

P. O. Box 1814, New York City.

NO-TO-BAC

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SWEAR OFF.

The natural way to stop tobacco is to get a distaste for it. Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away and go on suffering from nervous troubles that make strong men weak, impotent and unable to do the right thing at the right time, all because the blood is tobacco poisoned.

NO-TO-BAC makes it easy to stop this brain-weakening, nerve-ruining tobacco disease. You run no risk for your own druggist will sell, under guarantee.

NO-TO-BAC **GUARANTEED TOBACCO CURE**

We urge you to test **NO-TO-BAC**. Do it to-day! Over a million boxes sold in two years and 300,000 cures tell the story of merit. **NO-TO-BAC** will not only kill the desire for tobacco, eliminate nicotine and steady the nerves, but because of its great medicinal qualities it will make the blood pure and rich, tingling with new life and energy. Gloomy days will be gone, the sunshine will be brighter, the old man in feeling made young again—and happy.

DRUGGIST'S GUARANTEE. Any druggist is authorized to sell **NO-TO-BAC** under absolute guarantee to cure. Our written guarantee, free sample of **NO-TO-BAC**, Booklet called "Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away" mailed free. Address THE STERLING REMEDY CO., Chicago, Montreal, Can., New York.

CASCARETS candy cathartic cure constipation. Purely vegetable, smooth and easy, sold by druggists everywhere, guaranteed to cure. Only 10c.

\$10.00 EDISON GRAPHOPHONE \$10.00

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YOU CAN MAKE \$5.00 TO \$25.00 every evening by giving

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS in Halls, Churches, School Houses, Etc., at 15 to 25 cents admission, or by using with hearing tubes and charging 5 cents for each individual. We furnish you everything to GO TO WORK AT ONCE.

OUR LIBERAL ONE DOLLAR OFFER CUT THIS AD OUT and send to us with \$1.00 as a guarantee of good faith, and we will send you the Graphophone and other goods listed by express C.O. D. subject to examination, you can examine them at the express office and if found satisfactory, as represented, and AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MAKING BIG MONEY pay the express charges, less the One Dollar sent with order.

ASA HOME ENTERTAINER IT PLAYS MUSIC, IT SINGS, IT TALKS, IT LAUGHS. It's music, both instrumental and vocal, is reproduced with all the beautiful expressions and melody, as only the best and most noted bands, orchestras and singers can render them. IT'S IMITATION OF THE HUMAN VOICE.

IS SO PERFECT as to deceive almost any one. **YOU CAN PLAY, SING OR TALK** to the Graphophone and it will record and reproduce the same as many times as desired.

OUR NEW CEM GRAPHOPHONE is well made in every respect, has a strong spring motor, with cut gears and pistons, governor and tension screw for regulating the speed, AND RUNS TWO PIECES WITH ONE WINDING, has the latest extra loud aluminum reproducer, new style long bearing record mandrel, is lighter and more portable than the old styles, is equipped with all the latest improvements and everything considered it is unequalled by anything in the line of Talking Machines. There is no limit to the number of pieces that it will play or reproduce, and each piece can be played, each speech reproduced as often as desired.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICES: Price of Our Gem Graphophone with 2 hearing tubes, concert horn and handsome oak carrying case with handle, as illustrated above, \$10.00

Price of Our Best Musical or Talking Records, 50 cents each, or \$5.00 for one dozen.

OUR GREAT \$22.25 EXHIBITION MONEY MAKING OUTFIT THIS BIG OUTFIT consists of everything needed to begin work at once. **OUR CEM GRAPHOPHONE** WITH CARRYING CASE, 2 Hearing Tubes, Concert Horn, 24 Best Records, assorted selection of Music, Songs and Speeches, 100 Large Size (12x18) Posters for advertising Graphophone Exhibitions and 800 Admission Tickets.

OUR GRAPHOPHONE CATALOGUE IS FREE

AS TO OUR RELIABILITY WE REFER YOU TO THE Metropolitan National Bank, National Bank of the Republic, National Bank of Illinois, or any old reliable of Chicago. If you have friends in Chicago write them to come and examine our Graphophone. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.), CHEAPEST SUPPLY HOUSE ON EARTH, Cor. Fulton, Desplaines and Wabash Sts., CHICAGO, ILL.

Our Household.

AN OLD MAID.

Her eyes like quiet pools are clear,
Her placid face is sweet and fair,
The frost of many vanished year
Lies on her hair.

She has no memories or vows
Exchanged below an April moon,
Or whispered converse 'neath the boughs
Of rose-bright June.

She never planned her wedding-gown—
This sweet old maiden true and good;
For her life held no sacred crown
Of motherhood.

Yet to the shelter of her side
The little orphan children press;
'Tis known she mothers, far and wide,
The motherless.

The poor and suffering love her well—
Such ready sympathy she knows,
The sorrow-burdened freely tell
To her their woes.

For those who stumble, those who fall,
Her heart with gentle truth is stirred;
She has a kindly smile for all—
A cheering word.

With Fate she never wages strife;
"It must be right since God knows best;"
And so she lives her useful life,
Blessing and blest.

She strews the thorny path with flowers,
She turns the darkness into day;
And, as we clasp her hand in ours,
We can but say:

"Dear friend, so rich in love and truth,
With large, warm heart and steadfast mind,
'Twas well for some that in your youth
The men were blind."

—E. Matheson, in *Chambers' Journal*.

HOME TOPICS.

BACON.—The idea that well-fed, home-dressed pork is not good food is fast passing away. Many physicians say the fat from bacon is just as beneficial as cod-liver oil. Of course, one does not want a constant diet of pork any more than of anything else. But I started out to talk about bacon, which is said to be one of the most easily digested forms of fat. Many people cut the slices too thick and fry them too much. Bacon should be cut in slices not more than an eighth of an inch thick. Keep the bacon in a cold place, have a very sharp, thin-bladed knife, trim off the hard lean strip from one side and the rind from the other. Then cut as many slices as you wish to cook. Lay them in a hot frying-pan, and turn them as soon as they look clear; cook a minute or two on the other side. Lay a piece of brown paper on a hot pan and put the slices of bacon on this, where they will keep hot until served. Bacon with eggs or liver is an appetizing breakfast-dish. Bacon is nice cut as for frying, then broiled over a clear fire. Put a few drops of lemon-juice over the slices before serving, and garnish the platter with parsley and thin slices of lemon.

POISONS.—Strong medicines and poisonous substances should always be kept

name of some household antidote, if possible. Of course, in a case of poisoning, a physician should be sent for at once, but in the meantime give an emetic and any antidote at hand. A physician recommends the following mixture, which will act as an emetic and will also neutralize a number of poisons: Mix a teaspoonful of ground mustard, ten teaspoonfuls of olive-oil or melted lard and the whites of four eggs in a pint of tepid water. Give a teaspoonful of the mixture every ten minutes, until vomiting occurs, and follow each dose with tepid water. Sometimes when this mixture does not induce vomiting, give a teaspoonful of soda in a cupful of tepid water, and follow it immediately with a teaspoonful of vinegar and water, half and half; or a half teaspoonful of cream of tartar in a cupful of tepid water, and the effervescence will cause vomiting. The whites of eggs and oil neutralize and absorb many poisons.

The many cases of accidental poisoning which occur every year show the need of keeping all poisonous substances so plainly marked that they may be recognized in the dark the minute the hand touches them, and a list of antidotes and emetics should be written out and pasted on the door of the medicine-closet, as in an emergency many people do not remember what they need the most.

WOMEN'S SECTIONS IN FARMERS' INSTITUTES.—In a number of states where farmers' institutes are held women have been given one or two places on the general program; but in Michigan during the last year or two a woman's section has been organized, which has proven very popular and instructive. If this has been done in other states I have not heard of it. At these meetings, besides demonstrative lectures on cooking, such topics as "Making Housework Easier," "Educating Farm Children," "Character Building," "Mother and Child," "Poultry-raising for Farmers' Wives," "What Farmers' Wives Need," and similar topics were discussed. Such meetings as these cannot but be productive of good, and it is to be hoped that all states holding institutes this year will plan to have a woman's section at each institute. MAIDA McL.

INSERTION FOR QUILT.

We have carefully prepared directions for this insertion to the knitted quilt we published in a former number. We hope there will be no such trouble with this.

ABBREVIATIONS USED.—K, knit; n, narrow; o, over; p, purt; st, stitch; sl, slip. Cast on 27 stitches.

First row—K 3, n, o, k 3, o, n, p, n, p 1, n, p 1, n, o, k 1, o, k 2, o, n, k 1.

Second row—K 3, o, n, p 3, k 1, p 1, k 1, p 1, k 1, p 6, k 2, n, k 1.

Third row—K 3, o, n, o, k 5, o (sl 1, n, pass sl st o), p (sl 1, n, pass sl st o), o, k 5, o, k 2, o, n, k 1.

Fourth row—K 3, o, n, p 8, k 1, p 8, k 2, o, n, k 1.

Fifth row—K 3, o, n, o twice, k 1, n; p 1, n, k 1 (sl 1, n, pass sl st o), k 2, n, p 1, n, k 1, o twice, k 2, n, k 1.

Sixth row—K 3, o, n (k 1, p 1, in loop), p 2, k 1, p 7, k 1, p 3, k 3, o, n, k 1.

Seventh row—K 3, o, n, o, k 1, o, k 1, n, p 1, n, k 3, n, p 1, n, k 1, o, k 1, o, k 2, n, k 1.

Eighth row—K 3, o, n, p 5, k 1, p 5, k 1, p 5, k 2, o, n, k 1.

Repeat from beginning. M. R. W.

BARBOUR'S PRIZE Needlework Series, No. 6: Just out—latest, brightest, best—seventy beautiful illustrations—colored plates—a new crochet stitch. Contributions purchased at liberal rates. Send 10 cents for No. 6 to K. Needlework Dept., Barbour Bros. Co., 218 Church Street, New York.

WINTER DESSERTS.

When the fresh fruit is gone, pray don't go back to pie as the finish to the midday meal for seven days in the week. Pie has its proper place, but not the one given it by many American housewives.

However, it was not pie I came to talk about, but the many things that can take its place. One of these is hot "ginger-

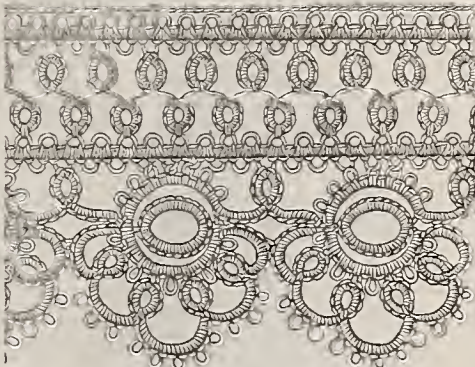
the ingredients thoroughly, and steam three hours.

This sauce is excellent to serve with it: Dissolve one tablespoonful of corn-starch in a little cold water, cook by pouring over it one pint of boiling water, add butter the size of an egg, one cupful of sugar, one half teaspoonful of lemon-juice and two tablespoonfuls of sharp vinegar.



bread. Serve it, made after the following rule, with hot coffee, and you will be fortunate if there is enough left for breakfast the next morning:

One cupful of molasses, one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in two tablespoonfuls of hot water; add to molasses, and beat well, one teaspoonful of salt, one heaping tablespoonful of butter, one cupful of sour milk, one teaspoonful of ginger, one fourth teaspoonful of cloves, two cupfuls of flour. Beat well, and bake in moderate



oven. A richer cake can be made as follows: Yolks of four eggs, one cupful of brown sugar, one half cupful of butter, one cupful of molasses, one cupful of raisins, two small teaspoonfuls of soda, one half cupful of strong coffee, flour to make a stiff batter.

Any one of these simple and easily prepared desserts will be relished: Chocolate, hot crackers, butter and jelly; sour apples baked with plenty of sugar and butter; baked sweet apples, cut fine and covered with milk and sugar.

Each family has its own recipe for rice, tapioca and bread pudding, but this may be new to some. Fill a basin half full of sliced apples, cover with tapioca that has been soaked in warm water until clear, sweetened and salted. Bake slowly until the apples are done. Serve cold with cream and sugar. In the place of raisins in rice pudding try half a cupful of cocoanut. The next time make as usual, only reserving the whites of two eggs. Beat these to a stiff froth, sweeten, spread over the pudding when done, and return to the oven for a few minutes; then dot with bits of bright red jelly.

Here is a delicious short-cake that may be new: Make a rich biscuit dough, roll out a thin layer and place in a pan; spread it with stewed apples, sprinkle with sugar and dot with generous bits of butter. Then add another layer of dough, followed by one of apples. Let the top layer be dough. Bake in a moderate oven, and serve with any preferred sauce.

A suet pudding made from the following recipe will keep for weeks, and can be sliced and reheated in a steamer: One cupful each of molasses, sour milk, raisins and chopped suet, one teaspoonful of nutmeg, one half teaspoonful of cinnamon, one teaspoonful of salt, four cupfuls of flour. Dissolve the soda in the milk, mix

CUP-PUDDING.—To each quart of flour add two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, pinch of salt and tablespoonful of melted butter. Moisten with sweet milk, making a stiff batter. Fill cups one third full of canned cherries or crab-apple jelly, spread over batter enough to fill the cup two thirds full, and steam. Serve with the sauce given above, or any other way that may be preferred.

One more and I am done. Housewife-pudding: Two eggs, three rounded tablespoonfuls of corn-starch, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, quarter of a teaspoonful of salt, half a lemon, a scant pint of boiling water. Moisten the corn-starch, sugar and salt with a little cold water, add the boiling water, stir, and boil steadily for ten minutes. Take from the fire, add half the lemon-juice and the whites of the eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Beat together until very light, then turn into a mold to harden. With the yolks of the eggs make the following sauce to pour around the pudding:

Beat the yolks of the eggs, one tablespoonful of corn-starch, two tablespoonfuls of sugar and one tablespoonful of butter together until very light. Add three fourths of a pint of boiling water, and stir over the fire until thick. Add the remainder of the lemon-juice and the grated rind.

SUET PUDDING.—In one cupful of molasses mix one teaspoonful of soda, add one cupful of sweet milk, one cupful of suet, chopped fine, one cupful of seeded raisins, two and one half cupfuls of flour; salt and spice to taste; steam two hours.

SAUCE:—To one pint of boiling water add a heaping teaspoonful of sugar, a tablespoonful of butter, the same of corn-starch mixed in cold water, a pinch of salt; flavor to taste, and boil one-half hour.

HOPE DARING.

FOOTSTOOLS.

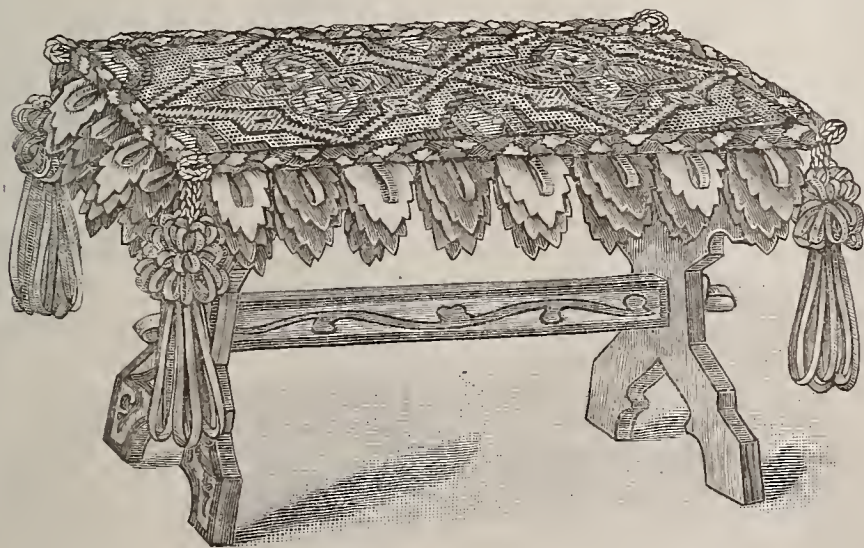
The one we illustrate is of heavy wood, which any good carpenter can copy, and it should be heavy so it will not upset. It can be stained and varnished, and the top covered with embroidered Japanese canvas in shades of one color; the edge is finished with black, white and green cloth, braided, scallops of the cloth, and tassels, also of the cloth, cut in strips. It is always a convenience to have a comfortable stool about the room. B. K.

NEW TATTING PATTERN.

This is tatting combined with feather-edged braid. The ordinary insertion is joined, as you go along, with the braid, after which the points are made separately, using two shuttles.

My father says Dr. Jayne's Expectorant saved my life when I was a baby, and I regard it as the best remedy in the world for all diseases of the Throat and Lungs.—A. T. BOWLING, Merchant, Elvira, Ky., Dec. 5, 18

For Headache, take Jayne's Painless Sensitive Pills.



beyond the reach of children, but people are often careless in this matter. To guard against a person taking the wrong medicine, or a poisonous mixture intended only for outward application, it would be well if internal medicines were always kept in round bottles, labeled with the name and dose of the contents, and the name of the person for whom they are intended, and poisons always kept in square bottles, labeled "Poison," and also the

Our Household.

THE BOOK OF THE NEW YEAR.

The book of the New Year is opened.

Its pages are spotless and new,

And so, as each leaflet is turning,

Dear children, beware what you do.

Let never a bad thought be cherished.

Keep the tongue from a whisper of guile,

And see that your faces are windows

Through which a sweet spirit shall smile.

And weave for your souls the fair garment

Of honor, and beauty, and truth,

Which will still with glory enfold you

When fadeth the spell of your youth.

And now, with the new book, endeavor

To write its white pages with care;

Each day is a leaflet, remember,

To be written with watching and prayer.

And if on a page you discover

At evening a blot or a scrawl,

Kneel quickly, and ask the dear Saviour

In mercy to cover it all.

So, when the strange book shall be finished,

And clasped by the angel in light,

You may feel, though the work be imperfect,

You have tried to please God in the right.

HOME DRESSMAKING.

PAPER VI.—WAIST-FITTING.

DRESSMAKERS disagree as to the number of times a waist should be tried on in order to secure a perfect fit.

A dress may fit perfectly at the first trying on. The waist after being basted should be tried on inside out, and should be carefully pinned up the front in the form of a seam, the front edges being placed evenly together. If the waist is too tight to fasten, it should be taken off, let out at each under-arm seam, and put on again.

The sleeve should be basted and tried on. Never cut out the arm-seye while the waist is on. If it needs trimming out at the armholes, slash with the scissors to give the necessary freedom, and when the waist is off, it is easy to fit one arm-seye into the other; edges even, and trim out.

Sew all the seams, except those under the arms, and the shoulder-seams with a good quality of sewing-silk matching the dress in color. This is important if the waist is made very tight-fitting. Remove the bastings from the sewed seams, and cut slashes in the edges of the seams near the waist-line. Press all the sewed seams. Put the hooks and eyes on the front. A nice way of putting these on is to put the hooks on the left side with the bill turned out over the edge of the front. The eyes are put on the right side far enough from the edge to allow the fastening being concealed. This is a new way, but will be found to be very convenient, as you find the hook with the eye and not the eye with the hook. Try on the waist again, hook up, and if all right take off, sew side seams and press them. Trim seams, and finish by overcasting rather closely with a gay-colored button-hole-twist. The stays should be different lengths. It is best to use stays that can be cut, as whale or fish bone.

Cover with stay-casing, which is sold by the yard. Very short stays should be put in the curved back seams, but all stays should, when put on, reach to half an inch of the unfinished bottom edge of the waist. When covering stays, allow an inch of casing at each end for turning over. Turn over and fasten securely. Take a covered stay, lay on the seam, fasten securely at each edge near the bottom of the stay, draw the seam under the stay, stretching slightly, and fasten the stay at the top, about an inch from the end. Cat-stitch from this fastening to the bottom with silk twist or good coarse cotton. If you fasten the extreme top end of a stay to the seam, it will show unpleasantly on the outside of the waist.

Try on the waist. If the work so far has been done properly it will probably need no altering at the shoulder-seams, but sometimes a little change is found advisable, owing to a slight raising of the waist-line caused by putting in the stays. Sew and press shoulder-seams. L. C.

CANNABIS INDICA,

The Great East India Remedy, Imported by Craddock & Co., 1022 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa., is warranted to cure Consumption, Bronchitis, Asthma and Nasal Catarrh. \$2.50 per bottle; 3 bottles, \$6.50.

ON THE CARE OF THE TEETH.

In January, 1897, Dr. I. Leon Williams, of London, read a most instructive and thoroughly illustrated lecture before the New York Odontological Society on the "Pathology of the Enamel of the Teeth," in other words, what is it that causes the enamel of the teeth to become invaded by decay, and in what manner does the destroying agent or agents work, that they break down a hard material, that without the sad experience of mankind, to the contrary, we should say cannot be destroyed?

The gentleman had made microscopic slides to show every minutest step of the process, and these had been examined by him through lenses magnifying from 200 to 1,500 diameters, but most of them by a 250-diameter power. When one goes beyond this, what is gained in magnification is lost in clearness of definition, and the difficulty of the work can be appreciated by recalling the fact that some of the sections of teeth that had been studied were only half as thick as ordinary printing-paper, and when it is so greatly reduced it is hard to keep together the substance of the tooth proper and the mischief-producing material that has transformed the hardest substances in the body into a mass of particles. But the patient labors of the investigator have demonstrated how the different steps in the process of decay have followed each other, and if every person who reads this could follow his minute and lengthy technical explanation, he or she would be stimulated to the early, constant and unremitting use of the tooth-brush and tooth-pick, and for those teeth that seem to be so shaped or so closely set that these instruments fail to cleanse every point of tooth-surface, would use floss silk or sewing-silk drawn through the interspace.

How does the decay of a tooth commence? By dissolution of its substance



through the action of the acids of the mouth; which acids are generated by the contents of the stomach in the ordinary process of digestion. Take a bit of sound tooth-enamel, place it in acid—in a short time it will become decalcified; that is, its lime salt will be dissolved out, and only the framework remain. The acid of the mouth having effected a tiny abrasion, there comes the ubiquitous microbe, enters, and then destruction commences in earnest. The microbes multiply enormously, and in their own life processes produce acids far more destructive than the ordinary mouth-acid that began the ruin, and the microscope exhibits cavities completely lined with a felt-like mass, which, on resolution into its constituent elements, proves to be wholly made up of microbes.

Thus Dr. Williams puts to flight the idea that the ingestion of phosphates, or food containing them, can preserve the teeth. He says, in speaking of the mass of micro-organisms: "This mass of fungi is so dense and adhesive as to make it highly improbable that the enamel is affected, except in rare instances, by any other aid than that which is being excreted by the bacteria at the very point where they are attached to the enamel. The thick glu-

tinous-like mass of fungi also prevents the excreted acid from being washed away, so it exerts its full chemical power upon the calcific tissue."

The art of restoring partially decayed teeth is advancing every year, but the wise mother will teach the child to thoroughly cleanse the teeth with the brush at the earliest possible minute.

H. M. PLUNKETT.

SILKS AND THE LAUNDRY OF LINENS.

There are many to-day who work in silks who are not aware of the long list of materials to choose from, being only acquainted with filo, Roman floss and one or two others. The adaptation of several kinds in one piece is very lovely, but one must be an artist, or consult the taste of an artist, to combine them successfully. Edges which used to be worked entirely in filo are treated in various manners now, and are quite as dainty and rich in appearance as one could wish.

From the following list one cannot fail to choose something that will interpret any design in its happiest manner:

Filo, double,	Filo, single,	Roman,
Turkish,	Spanish,	Royal,
Wash Twist,	Rope,	Asiatic,
Art Rope,	Ontling,	Art Twist,
Honiton,	Cable,	Couching,
Capicene,	Etching,	Dresden,
Parisian Floss,	Medieval or	Filling Silk.

Some of these names, such as Turkish, Spanish, Roman and Asiatic, are only trade-names for different firms for the same silk, varying perhaps a little in quality, some coarser than others. Where we used to employ filo entirely for working flowers we now use from three to five kinds of silks in the same piece, and all blend together in the greatest harmony.

The laundering of our linens should never be left to a servant, who is sure to put it through the same process as a soiled towel, and finish it with starch and bluing—two things which should never come near our linens. All elegant linen has a stiffness of its own far surpassing that put in by starch, if it is handled as it should be. A young lady in search of home employment could well line her purse by undertaking this work for those who must depend on servants to do it.

Many workers now aim to keep their work so clean that its newness may remain a long time. Some of the pieces we have seen throwing around look more like old dirty rags than anything else, and there is no doubt this careless contact with dust ruins the sheen of the silk.

A soft silk handkerchief is a very good thing to keep your work in while it is in the process of completion. Every one should be thoroughly equipped for fine laundry-work, with a special board, a large and small iron, holders, stand, and two or three pieces of blanket and several pieces of muslin. To raise the work one must often use a number of thicknesses of flannel. Place your piece right side down, smooth all wrinkles, then place over it a cloth wrung out of hot water; press this over smoothly, then press your iron carefully over it; iron until the cloth is nearly dry, then pass it in an opposite direction. Lift the cloth, and iron carefully over the article. Place them on a flat board or table, to dry thoroughly. Never leave them until they are perfectly dry. To keep them without folds, roll them on a paste-board tube covered with linen.

Queries are going around now in the family as to who will get mamma's linen-box, as some of them are beautiful enough to hand down to the next generation, and when the hands are at rest that have made them, they will take their place as priceless as the old family silver, china and lace.

BELLE KING.

APRONS AND CHILDREN'S DRESSES.

Pretty aprons are always worn by foreigners. In a German family a girl always dons a pretty apron at home; then she is ready for any of the household duties she may be called upon to do. This one is of pale blue China silk, the skirt tucked and trimmed with lace. The pointed belt is slightly stiffened by a lining and a short whalebone in front. The revers are trimmed with a lace insertion and lace edging; they cross in the back, and are finished with a bow of ribbon. The two dresses illustrated are easily copied in any of the Henriettas which are now worn so much.

SUFFERING WOMEN.

How Many of Them Have Quietly Obtained Advice That Made Them Well.

My sister, if you find that in spite of following faithfully your family doctor's advice, you are not getting well, why do you not try another course? Many and many a woman has quietly written to Mrs. Pinkham, of Lynn, Mass., stating her symptoms plainly and clearly, and taken her advice, which was promptly received. The following letter is a pretty strong confirmation of our claims:

"I had been sick for six months; one doctor told me I would have to go to a hospital before I would get well. I had female troubles in their worst form, suffered untold agonies every month; my womb tipped back to my backbone, had headache, hysteria, fainting spells, itching, leucorrhœa.

"My feet and hands were cold all the time, my limbs were so weak that I could hardly walk around the house; was troubled with numb spells. I have taken four bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, one bottle of her Blood Purifier, one package of her Sanative Wash, and am entirely cured. I have not had one of those numb spells since. Can you wonder that I sing the praises of a medicine that has cured me of all these ills?"—MRS. LOUISA PLACE, 650 Belmont St., Brockton, Mass.

My sister, if you find that in spite of following faithfully your family doctor's advice, you are not getting well, why do you not try another course? Many and many a woman has quietly written to Mrs. Pinkham, of Lynn, Mass., stating her symptoms plainly and clearly, and taken her advice, which was promptly received. The following letter is a pretty strong confirmation of our claims:

SOLD! UNDER A Positive Guarantee

to wash as clean as can be done on the washboard, even to the wristbands and collar of the dirtiest shirt, and with much more ease. This applies to Terriff's Perfect Washer, which will be sent on trial at wholesale price. If not satisfactory, money will be refunded. Agents wanted. For exclusive territory, terms & prices, write Portland Mfg. Co., Box 4, Portland, Mich.



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ORCANS and PIANOS

exclusively for the equipment of its Indian schools as well as for the ships of the "White Squadron." Wise men profit by the experience of others. The experience of the Government experts is available for every one.

MASON & HAMLIN CO.,

Boston, New York, Chicago and St. Louis.

High Arm TRY IT FREE

for 30 days in your own home and save \$10 to \$25. No money in advance. \$50 Kenwood Machine for \$25.00 \$50 Arlington Machine for \$19.50 Singers (Made by us) \$5, \$11.50, \$15 and 27 other styles. All attachments FREE. We pay freight. Buy from factory. Save agents large profits. Over 100,000 in use. Catalogue and testimonials free. Write at once. Address (in full), CASH BUYERS' UNION 158-164 West Van Buren St., B-7, Chicago, Ill.

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Instruments of all competitors in quality and price. Clarinets, Trumpets, Drums, Fifes and all known instruments at prices you can't afford to miss. Band Catalogue 123-p. and sample parts band and orchestra music free. Specify Catalogue "B."

The Rudolph Wurlitzer Co. Manufacturers. Established 1856. 124 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Agents Wanted EVERY WOMAN

Can buy a WORLD'S WASHER on trial and no money paid until it is perfectly satisfactory. Washes easy. Clothes clean, sweet and white as snow. Child can use it. I pay freight. Circulars free. C. E. ROSS, 10 Clean St., Lincoln, Ill.

You Dye in 30 minutes

Turkey Red on Cotton or Wool that won't freeze, boil or wash out. Carpets, Dresses and clothing made to look like new, no experience necessary with Tonk's French Dyes. To introduce them send 40c. for 6 packages or 10c. for one any color. Big pay agents FRENCH DYE CO., Box 310, YASSAR, MICH.

CUT PAPER PATTERNS..

Our Latest Catalogue of CUT PAPER PATTERNS of up-to-date styles for Fall and Winter Dresses sent free upon request. FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

A NOVEL ENTERTAINMENT.

At a church sociable held recently in an enterprising village in western New York, a new scheme for making money, which proved as entertaining as it did lucrative, was introduced. After refreshments had been served and the money resulting therefrom counted, the amount was found to be below the expected mark. A self-appointed committee then suggested that in order to replenish the church purse its male members should allow themselves to be sold at auction.

The proposition met with immediate and surprising favor, and all preliminaries were quickly arranged. An auctioneer, remarkable not only for fluency but truthfulness and sound judgment, was selected, and the goods to be sold were hastily huddled together behind a curtain. The buyers who were, of course, the ladies, ranged themselves upon the other side of it. The auctioneer was not allowed to give names—only a personal description, which in many cases gave rise to much merriment. For example: "Ladies, the article which I now recommend to you is of medium height, neither fat nor lean, has pale blue eyes, a florid complexion and is noted for the uniform neatness of its attire. It does not, however, wear a uniform; is not a servant of Uncle Sam in any capacity, but is chiefly occupied in serving itself and its nearest neighbors, as some of you may have observed at the ice-cream table this evening. Its gastronomic feats, upon occasions similar to the present, are well worthy of mention, and the happy purchaser must look to it that her larder contain fish, flesh and fowl in abundance."

Then followed the bids. None of the men on sale brought less than ten cents—none more than fifty cents. The last-named sum, however, was offered but in few instances, when bald-headed men with keen eyes and hooked noses were put up for sale, the auctioneer claiming that these features indicated superior wisdom in all temporal affairs, and unusual business capacity. He assured the bidders, at the same time, that no better investment for their money could possibly be secured. The entire proceeds of the auction amounted to less than ten dollars, and although this was extremely humiliating to the articles so cheaply bought, they consoled themselves with the reflection that the fair purchasers had come financially unprepared to meet such golden opportunities, and that another time, with sufficient warning given, intelligence, superior worth, good clothes and good looks would not be sold for a song.

Another sociable to occur in the near future has been planned, at which the ladies, after much urging, have consented to be sold, the men to be the purchasers.

LILLA A. WHITNEY.

SETTING TRAPS TO CATCH COLD.

In writing a letter to a small boy, Tom Hood asks, with kindly humor: "Have you been setting a trap to catch a cold?"

Frances Amelia sets a trap to catch cold by going out in the rain without rubbers. She says it takes too much time to put on her rubbers, but she spends half an hour crimping her hair without a murmur. The last sloppy day Frances Amelia went out without rubbers; she was kept awake all night with neuralgia toothache, and could not go to work the next day. Her dentists' and doctors' bills took all she could earn in two weeks, and yet Frances Amelia considers this jolly fun.

Another trap for a cold Frances Amelia sets when she muffles her throat to suffocation with a roll of chicken-feathers, and leaves chest and lungs unprotected beneath a flimsy little cape. Frances Amelia wishes to look pretty in the eyes of the young man who is going to marry her, but if she had a grain of sense she would know that crimps, feathers and paper-soled shoes could never make up to a man for the misfortune of living with a sickly wife and paying endless doctors' bills.

A close-heated room is nearly always a trap for colds, for the air of such a room is necessarily full of disease germs, which settle in throat, head and lungs and inflame them. A good way to escape these germs is to keep the blood in good condition and form the habit of going out in all kinds of weather, filling the lungs with fresh, outdoor air.

A common way of setting a trap for a cold is getting overtired. Fatigue brings on blood-poisoning, and in this impure condition the blood corpuscles cannot take care of disease germs as in health.

A pinch of salt taken every fifteen minutes for an hour or two will sometimes ward off a cold, and an inhalant made by putting a few drops of camphor or peppermint in a bowl of steaming-hot water will almost instantly relieve a cold in the head. Listerine or alum and salt dissolved in warm water are also excellent to use as a gargle and mouth-wash for incipient sore throat.

FRANCES BENNETT CALLAWAY.

A CHEAP WAINSCOTING.

When we repapered our kitchen last spring we added a feature which proved so satisfactory and yet economical that I wish to tell other housekeepers of it. We had always papered the walls down to the base-board, but the paper to the height of a wainscoting soon grew so untidy from wash-days, flying grease from the cook-stove and various causes common to kitchens as to have become an eyesore.

To have it repapered each spring was not to be thought of. The expense would be too great, not counting the nuisance. To my mind nothing short of moving is so demoralizing to the comfort of a household as paper-hanging.

We did not want a wood wainscoting on account of the labor of keeping it

a very narrow molding, which finishes it neatly and forever keeps it in place.

Our kitchen is fifteen feet square. The oil-cloth for it cost one dollar and seventy-five cents; we can get it now for ten cents a yard. The molding cost one cent a foot, and a man's labor to help put it on, fifty cents. So you see, for about three dollars and a half we had our kitchen wainscoted, and I cannot express to you how satisfactory it is. Cold water cleans it. It will last for years, looks nice and is cheap. It comes up so high behind the cook-stove, table and gasoline-stove as to be an entire protection. To-day, if offered my choice, would prefer the oil-cloth to the wainscoting of wood.

JESSIE M. GOOD.

HOW TO CLEAN CHAMOIS.

First dissolve some shavings of good laundry-soap in a little hot water, until it is of the consistency of jelly. When this is ready for use, make a weak solution of soda and warm water; then rub plenty of the prepared soft soap into the leather, and allow it to remain in soak for two hours; then rub it well until quite clean. Afterward rinse it in a weak solution composed of warm water, soda and yellow soap. It must not be rinsed in water



clean. In winter, when the doors are closed, the steam from the kettles and the flying particles of grease from the cooking settle on walls and paint, and the alternate steaming and drying, combined with the grease, form in a little while a sort of Japan that only ammonia or the strongest soap with hard rubbing will remove. To clean an entire wainscoting this way is not amusing, you will agree, and we finally hit on the plan of wainscoting the wall to the height of four feet with thin oil-cloth, known as table oil-cloth.

We selected a pretty pattern, resembling tiles, and of a color harmonious with the paper. We had the ceiling and side walls to a suitable depth papered, and then had the oil-cloth put on. It requires great care to start it and keep it even. First cut the end true by a square, and commence tacking at the side of a door, for the corners of walls are not always true. One person, by taking a flat board and shoving ahead smoothly and evenly, while another one drives the tacks, can help very much. It was a little troublesome to put on smoothly, for the oil-cloth was warpy, but in two hours' labor it was accomplished, and it is as flat and tight as the wall itself. Then it was edged top and bottom, in the corners and by doors with

finally, for then it would be so hard when dry as to be unfit for use. It is the small quantity of soap left in the leather that allows the finer particles of the leather to separate and become soft like silk. After rinsing, wring well in a rough towel, and dry quickly; then pull it about, brush it well, and it will become softer and better than most new leather.

MRS. J. R. MACKINTOSH.

SLAUGHTER OF BIRDS FOR PLUMAGE.

In one consignment, recently, a feather-dealer in London received 6,000 birds of paradise, 360,000 birds of various kinds from the East Indies, and 400,000 humming-birds. In three months another dealer imported 356,398 birds from the East Indies.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. The genuine has L. B. Q. on each tablet.

FREE PATTERN CATALOGUE.

Our latest catalogue of cut paper patterns for fall and winter dresses will be sent free upon request. FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, O.

ONE DOLLAR



Fine quality CHEV- IOT SACK SUITS, same style as shown in picture—latest patterns; Browns, plaids, dark mixed and blacks; Wide, rich piping, heavily lined, elegantly finished, suitable for wear in any climate; first-class in every respect. Fully worth \$12.50. Send us one dollar and we will send you the suit by express, all charges prepaid by us. You examine the suit, and if satisfactory pay the express agent the balance—\$6.60. If not, return the suit to us and we will return your dollar. Full price of suit is \$7.00. Every suit guaranteed to fit. Samples of cloth sent for 2 cent stamp on application.

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A WONDERFUL SHOE

Prime BOX CALF SHOE, Dongola Tops, extended soles, solid counters; beautifully made, elegantly sewed, latest style. Same shaped toe as shown in picture. An extremely good shoe in every respect. Usually sold at \$3.50. Our price to any part of the U. S. only \$1.98. All charges prepaid by us.



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FREE SEWING-MACHINE FREE

100 latest improved Singer Sewing-machines will be actually given away by the old reliable Singer Mfg. Co. This is the original company who have an immense factory, employing over five thousand people. They offer to give 100 of their latest improved sewing-machines free to one hundred people. See advt. on page 10 of this issue to find out if you are one of the hundred. There is no catch or scheme whatever about this offer. They will do just as they agree. Be sure to read the offer on page 10.

WE LOAN A BICYCLE TO OUR AGENTS.

You can make twice as much money selling our wheels as you can by dealing with anyone else. Standard high grade machines, brand new, no better ever made. Also large stock of shop worn bicycles mostly as good as new from \$5 to \$35. This month we offer a No. 1, new wheel, Ladies or Gents at \$18. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Write for confidential offer to agents. Address 'The Old Reliable' BROWN-LEWIS CYCLE CO. (Dept. H.) Chicago.

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WILL light any number of fires and not burn up. WILL save labor and expense of preparing kindling. WILL burn ten minutes and light most any fuel. WILL make a good torch to take out at night. WILL make a good article for canvassers. Sample sent by mail post-paid on receipt of 15 cents. J. K. PURINTON & CO., DES MOINES, IOWA.

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103 Fulton st., New York, sell all makes under half price. Don't buy before writing them for unprejudiced advice and prices. Exchanges. Immense stock for selection. Shipped for trial. Guaranteed first class. Largest house in the world. Dealers supplied. 52-page illus. cat. free.

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14 inches long. Crowds in, fills space, polishes bright. Sample 10c. 1 doz. 60c. postpaid. 3 doz. \$1.12 doz. \$3.60, exp. Agents make big pay. D.L. Gail's Noddies, Trunks, Wigs & Plays free. C. MARSHALL, Lockport, N.Y.

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WANTED—One thousand canvassers for the most elegant and popular work of its kind in existence. New \$10 book that sells for only \$2.50 or \$4, according to binding, and outsells everything else in standard literature.

"American Women"

Comprises 828 Royal Quarto, double-column pages, and contains 1,570 Biographies, representing every walk in life. Embellished with over 1,400 Fine Portraits, with about 400 Full-page exquisitely beautiful Portrait Groupings. Sold only through Agents. On account of its surpassing value, richness of illustration and singularly low price, this regal volume affords the largest profits of the season, and the most easily earned. Terms the most liberal. For particulars, including "Easy Way" and "Special Advantages," with over one dozen Specimen Portraits and Portrait Groupings, address at once

MAST, CROWELL & KIRKPATRICK, Springfield, O.

MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS.

Smiles.

METAPHYSICS.

Why and wherefore set out one day
To hunt for a wild Negation.
They agreed to meet at a cool retreat
On the point of Interrogation.

But the night was dark and they missed
their mark.
And, driven well-nigh to distraction,
They lost their ways in murky maze
Of utter abstruse abstraction.

Then they took a boat and were soon afloat
On a sea of speculation.
But the sea grew rough, and their boat
though tough,
Was split into an Equation.

As they floundered about in the waves of
doubt
Rose a fearful Hypothesis,
Who gibbered with glee, as they sank in the
sea,
And the last they saw was this:

On a rock-bound reef of Unbelief
There sat the wild Negation:
Then they sank once more, and were washed
ashore
At the point of Interrogation.

—Life.

PROPERLY BOOKED.

A SHY Australian major, on an Australian liner, after spending the first evening very late with his friends in the saloon, suddenly returned to them after saying "good-night," and requested an interview with the purser. He was very white.

"There is a lady," he said, "in my cabin—No. 42."

"Ruhhish!" exclaimed the purser: "here's the list; your companion is Captain Higginson."

"Nothing will induce me to go into the cabin again," said the major.

"Well, I'll go," rejoined the other. He returned with great celerity, and with a face as white as the major's. "Upon my life, you are right. We'll put you somewhere else for the night, and see about it in the morning."

With the earliest dawn they sought the steward, and demanded an explanation.

"It's all a mistake, gentlemen," he said; "it's Captain Higginson, all right; here's his luggage."

"We must have this explained," said the purser; "this portmanteau is unlocked; let us see what is in it."

It contained a lady's wearing-apparel.

"By jingo!" cried the steward, a sudden light breaking on him, "that's what comes of taking names as don't belong to us. She said she was Captain Higginson; but she didn't say as it was only in the Salvation Army!"

—Argonaut.

WHAT HE GAVE PROMISE OF.

"Augh-waugh!"

It was the baby. He had repeated the remark sixty times in the past hour.

Mr. Newleigh's hair, such as it was, stood on end.

"Gwown ahwb wowbdgwow filaugf!" added the baby, while people living across the street got up and closed their windows.

Mr. Newleigh took a whetstone out of the table drawer and ground his teeth.

"To think," he groaned, burying his face in the pillows, "that I should grow up to become the father of a union depot train-crier."

—New York Recorder.

A SEVERE TEST OF FAITH.

First theosophist—"That settles it; I resign from the society."

Second theosophist—"What's the matter?"

First theosophist—"Why, one of my tenants has gone off without paying his rent, and left a note saying he would try to square up with me in some future existence!"

—Puck.

HOW ONE OF OUR LADY READERS MAKES A GOOD LIVING.

I have noticed the different ways in which some of your readers have been making money, and I wish now to give my experience. I am selling the Peerless Non-Alcoholic Flavoring Powders, never making less than \$3 a day, and I oftentimes clear over \$5. These powders are much cheaper than the liquids, and they go twice as far. From one to eight different flavors can be sold at most every house for flavoring ice-cream, custards, cakes, candies, etc., and they give to any delicacy in which they are put that richness of flavor so common to the fruits and flowers they represent. Guaranteed to be perfectly healthful. I have not any trouble selling them, as everyone who sees them tried buys them. By writing to W. H. Baird & Co., Dept. 99, Station A, Pittsburg, Pa., they will give you full particulars and give you a start. I give my experience, hoping that others who are in need of employment can do as well as I have.

FOR 30 DAYS YOU CAN TRY IT FOR 25 CENTS.

RHEUMATISM 42 YEARS

CURED BY

5 DROPS

[Trade Mark]

To the SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., Chicago, Ill.: GENTLEMEN: I will state that I had the Rheumatism over 42 years. Spent over \$600.00 in trying to get well, but all in vain, until by brother-in-law gave me one bottle of "5 DROPS" on trial last June. I used it for two months, and I am now a well man. I certainly believe it is all you claim for it, and fully worth the money to anyone. I hope the public will benefit by my statement of my own case, and anyone wishing to write me will receive an answer.

CRUTCHES DESTROYED AFTER ONE BOTTLE.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 167 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.: SIRS: My wife has been suffering two years with Rheumatism. She could not get about at all. She has used about one bottle of "5 DROPS," and can now go about without crutches. I never have found anything that did her so much good, and I hope to be able to continue the treatment until she is entirely well.

As a positive cure for Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Dyspepsia, Backache, Asthma, Hay Fever, Catarrh, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Nervous and Neuralgic Headaches, Heart Weakness, Toothache, Earache, Croup, Swelling, La Grippe, Malaria, Creeping Numbness, etc., etc.,

"FIVE DROPS" HAS NEVER BEEN EQUALLED.

"FIVE DROPS" taken but once a day is a dose of this great remedy, and to enable all sufferers to make a trial of its wonderful curative properties we will send out during the next thirty days, 100,000 sample bottles, 25c. each, prepaid by mail. Even a sample bottle will convince you of its merit. Best and cheapest medicine on earth. Large bottles (300 doses) \$1.00, for 30 days 3 bottles for \$2.50. Not sold by druggists, only by us and our agents. Agents wanted in new territory. Write us to-day.

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CANDY
CATHARTIC
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CURE CONSTIPATION
REGULATE THE LIVER
10c 25c 50c ALL DRUGGISTS

RHEUMATISM

Permanently cured by using DR. WHITEHALL'S RHEUMATIC CURE. The surest and the best. Sample sent free on mention of this publication. THE DR. WHITEHALL MCGRIMM CO., South Bend Indiana.

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LARGE CIGAR Firm wants permanent Agents everywhere. \$100 PER MONTH. SAMPLES FREE. ADDRESS with stamp, P. BOX 120, CHICAGO.

\$6 TO \$1000 for distributing CIRCULARS. Enclose 4c. Excelsior Adv. Co., 213 W. 125 St., N. Y. City.

RUBBER STAMPS Best made. Immense Catalogue Free to agents. The G. A. HARPER MFG. CO., Cleveland, O.

SPECTACLES at wholesale. Send for catalog. Agents wanted. COULTER OPTICAL CO., Chicago, Ill.

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SALESMAN to sell popular line to dealers. \$100 monthly and expenses. Experience unnecessary. H. W. BROWN & CO., 56 5th Ave., Chicago.

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MEN AND WOMEN WORK AT HOME GOOD OLD OR YOUNG WAGES Making Crayons by our copyrighted system. Easy to learn; day or evening. PENN ART CO., TYRON, PA.

\$525 Agents profits per month. Will prove it or pay forfeit. New articles just out. A \$1.50 sample and terms free. Try us. CHIDESTER & SON, 28 Bond St., N. Y.

LADIES I Make Big Wages At Home— and want all to have same opportunity. The work is very pleasant and will easily pay \$18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. Miss M. E. Stebbins, Lawrence, Mich.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$50 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 126 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

GOLD RINGS FREE! We will give one half-round Ring, 18k Balled Gold plate & warranted to anyone who will sell 1 doz. Indestructible Lamp Wicks (need no trimming) among friends at 10c. each. Write us and we will mail you the Wicks. You sell them and send us the money and we will mail you the Ring. STAR CHEMICAL CO., Box 455, Centerbrook, Conn.

I WANT A MAN In every city or township to look after my business, on salary or commission; steady work and liberal pay the year round. One man cleared \$140.45 last week. Places for a few ladies. Don't delay or bother to send stamps, but write at once to J. W. JONES, Springfield, Ohio.

MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS.

A LYRIC.

A new Georgia poet "is in our midst." He sends this charming lyric to the "Constitution," with the statement that it is "one of a thousand" he has written, but the first he has ever submitted for publication. It is as follows:

"My love has eyes that are as blue
As I am when a note falls due;
Her face with love-lines abounds;
I think she weighs two hundred pounds.
Her smile far more than gold is worth;
'Tis wide enough to light the earth!
I hear the falling of her feet
A hundred yards down the street;
She sets my happy heart to drumming
And the whole world shakes when she's coming!"

—Atlanta Constitution.

LANDED ALL RIGHT.

A lady on Staten Island had a green Irish girl for a waitress. After training the girl for a month, the lady ventured to invite two very dignified people to dinner. For two courses everything went well. Bridget refrained from speech, spilled not a thing, and looked as pretty as a fresh young Irish girl can. But when she removed the fish to take it down to the kitchen she tripped on the top step, and a scream and series of bumps and crashes accompanied the descent. The hostess tried in vain to keep from laughing, but the two dignified guests never moved a muscle until all was still and the voice of the girl was heard calling in richest accents from the bottom of the stairs, "Did you hear me? Fell all the way down stairs an' landed on me fut loike a harrrd."—Harper's Bazar.

NOT NEW TO HIM.

The newly arrived soul was paying his first visit to the Cave of the Winds, in the upper realms of space, and his astral body, quivered and shook like a pendant ribbon in the maelstrom of sound-waves. It was a horrid din. Shrieks, wails, screeches, squeaks and crashes, in major and minor keys, made up the awful discord.

"You don't seem to mind it much," said his ghostly guide.

"No," said the tourist shade. "You see, while on earth I became hardened to all sorts of discords. I managed a college glee club for three seasons."—Life.

PLENTY OF EXERCISE.

High-priced doctor—"You are now convalescent, and all you need is exercise. You should walk ten, twenty, thirty miles a day, sir; but your walking should have an object."

Patient—"All right, doctor. I'll travel around trying to borrow enough to pay your bill."—New York Weekly.

POPULAR.

"Your little Jim seems to be popular with the other small boys."

"Popular? The other day he asked if he could give each of his boy friends an apple, and when I came down stairs the entire harlequin was gone."—Detroit Free Press.

A KLONDIKE HEIRESS.

First Klondike miner—"I hear that our neighbor, Spudkins, has married rich."

Second Klondike miner (enviously)—"Yes; they say his bride has an independent fortune of fifty cans of homless ham and twenty-five cans of condensed milk."—Puck.

INDIRECTLY TOLD.

Old gentleman (dictating indignant letter)—"Sir: My stenographer, being a lady, cannot take down what I think of you. I, being a gentleman, cannot think it; but you, being neither, can easily guess my thoughts." [Copyright, 1897, by Brooklyn Life.]

ONE OF THEM.

Schemenski—"Vat? You take a bath efery day? Vat for?"

Brown—"Oh, it makes a fellow feel better." Schemenski—"Must because it maigs you feel petter? You must pe von of dem ehhi-cures."—Indianapolis Journal.

CANCER IS CURABLE.

without surgery. Testimony furnished of many reliable persons cured. Book of information, free. Address, Dr. C. WEBER, Cincinnati, Ohio.

"Peerless Atlas at one dollar, containing the new double-page map of Alaska and the Klondike, with FARM AND FIRESIDE or WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION for one year thrown in, is a fine seller. No person could ask for a better line of goods, nor any at lower prices. My customers are greatly pleased with their bargains, and I shall make this my sole business."—Joseph Zimmermann, Walker, Kan.

WE PRINT FREE Your Name on 50 Friendship Cards. Lovely Forget-me-nots, Rose Motifs & Lovers Cards in 4 colors. Also send you 10 HANDSOME WOOD CASE containing Pen, Pencil, Slate, Ruler and Ink. Gold Pen, 8 1/2 in. for 10 cents and postage 3c. per item. Free Print, WAYSIDE CO., Clintonville, Conn.

CARDS FOR 1898. 50 Sample Styles and List of 700 PREMIUM ARTICLES. HAVESFIELD PUBLISHING CO., CADIZ, OHIO.

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CARDS Send 2c. stamp for Sample Book of all the FINEST & LATEST Styles in Beveled Edge, Hidden Name, Silk Fringe, Envelope and Calling Cards for 1898. WE SELL GENUINE CARDS, NOT TRASH. UNION CARD CO., Columbus, Ohio.

650 NEW STYLE CARDS, &c. FOR 1898. 100 Rich and Racy Jokes, 15 Versions of Love, Language of Flowers and Precious Stones, Standard Beau Catcher, and how to make \$10. a day at home, ALL FOR 2 CENTS. Address, CROWN CARD CO., Box 24, CADIZ, OHIO.

16 Bottlefuls of splendid Frost-proof Ink, mailed anywhere for silver dime. J. JONES, Shrewsbury, Mo.

FREE the latest catalogue of cut-paper patterns. Address Farm and Fireside, Springfield, O.

RUBBER GOODS and Mail Order Supplies. Quick sales; big profits to Agents. Catalogue free. Mrs. M. O. Carpenter, "L," 136 Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill.

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PIANOS AND ORGANS Shipped direct from factory on 30 Days Free Trial. No money asked in advance. Conditions easy. A high-grade \$350 Kenwood Piano for \$155. A first class \$75 Kenwood Organ for \$32.50. Local agents must sell inferior instruments or charge double what we ask. We also have Pianos as low as \$125 and organs at \$21.75. Large illustrated catalogue sent FREE address in full. CASH BUYERS' UNION, 160 W. Van Buren St., B-7, Chicago, Ill.

Will \$500 Help You Out? If so, you can have it! We offer you the Sole Agency for an article that is Wanted in Every Home and Indispensable in Every Office, something that SELLS AT SIGHT. Other articles sell rapidly at Double the Price, though not answering the purpose half so well. You can make from \$500 to \$700 in three months, introducing it, after which it will bring A Steady, Liberal Income, if properly attended to. Ladies do as well as men, in town or country. Don't Miss This Chance. Write at once to J. W. JONES, Manager, Springfield, Ohio.

OUR GIANT ALMANAC

The Farm and Fireside's Giant Almanac and Annual Reference Book (450 pages) will be ready for delivery during the first week of January, 1898. It will be an absolutely reliable authority on political, agricultural, commercial, financial, educational, religious and miscellaneous subjects and statistics in general. Price, with Farm and Fireside one year, 50 cts. Send orders now. First come, first served.

Italicized with SORE EYES Dr. ISAAC THOMPSON'S EYE WATER

Our Miscellany.

THERE are two classes of men who never profit by their mistakes—those who blame it on their wives, and those who lay it all to Providence.—*Ism's Horn.*

WOMEN should get rid of the idea that they are doing the Lord's work when out bothering busy men to buy tickets to church entertainments.—*Atchison Globe.*

THE Kansas City "Star" says that a poet who was recently run over by a street-car has recovered \$6,000 damages. There is money in literature if you go at it right.

SHE—"I hope you can come next Thursday; we're having some music and a supper afterward."

HE—"Oh, yes; I'll come; but—er—I may be late."—*The Sketch.*

MIKE—"How old are you, Pat?"

PAT—"Thirty-sivin next mont'."

MIKE—"Yez must be older than that. When were yez born?"

PAT—"In 1860."

MIKE—"I have yez now! Sure, yez told me the same date tin years ago!"—*Yale Record.*

"QUO VADIS" means "Whither goest thou?" It is a part of the question said to have been addressed to the Lord by St. Peter when he was flying from Rome to escape martyrdom. The Lord met him on the road outside of the city, and replied to his question that he was going back to be crucified over again, since his apostle had turned recreant. A chapel marks the spot where the Lord appeared. London time is five hours earlier than ours.—*New York Sun.*

THE winter is a good time for well-making, says the "Farm Journal." One can soon chop through the frozen crust, and the man digging will be warm enough. The men handling the windlass will be if they put up a wind-break of some boards or corn-fodder. There is more time for well-making in the winter than during any other season of the year. There is not much water below the surface layer, hence if one gets a strong well in winter it is not likely that it will fail him in time of drouth. When the ground is frozen the brick or stone for the walls can be hauled without injury to the fields.

IN FLORIDA.

When persimmons wrinkle in the wind and the candy oozes out, when the berries turn to sugar, then the 'possum walks about, and the cur that slept in idleness, while the summer's sun was hot, knows the time has come to stir his stumps and find meat for the pot. And the nigger digs his 'taters and spreads them in the sun, he cares no more for chicken, and he leaves his work undone; he pets his dog and spends his night in looking for a meal that's sweeter than anything he can buy or grow, flanked deep with potatoes brown, needs nothing but persimmon beer to float it richly down. And then the nigger is a king—you couldn't make him vote, and he cares not for his neighbor's gold, his chicken, nor his shoat; he will not pick your oranges; he's rich as well as free, and swears that Florida is the land for him as well as me.—*Chipleigh Enterprise.*

A CURIOUS OFFER.

A SEWING MACHINE COMPANY'S PECULIAR AND UNEXPLAINED PROPOSITION.

Much discussion is rife over the fact that The Singer Manufacturing Co., makers of the famous sewing machines, propose to give one hundred of their latest improved machines in even exchange for an equal number of the oldest sewing machines, of any make, now in family use in the United States. The award is to be determined from the list of applications sent to the Company's head office in New York before March 1, 1898.

This is no guessing contest requiring a payment, a subscription, or a personal service of any sort. If you own an old sewing machine you have only to send the requisite information as to its age, in order to be placed on the list and become a competitor for a prize worth having. It costs absolutely nothing but a postal card, which will surely bring to your door the best sewing machine in the world in exchange for your old one, provided it proves to be among the one hundred oldest in the list of applications made before March 1, 1898, at which date the list will be closed.

With so many as one hundred machines offered, any one with a sewing machine over five or ten years old stands a good chance to gain a new one.

The reputation of the Singer Manufacturing Company for fair dealing is well known; their offices are in every city and our readers may be well assured that they will do exactly what they promise.

The free particulars regarding sending the information to New York can be obtained from our advertising columns; they may also be procured at any of the Singer Company's offices and from their salesmen generally.

THE SECRET OF LONGEVITY.

Sir James Sawyer, a well-known physician of Birmingham, has been confiding to an audience in that town the secret of longevity. Keep the following nineteen commandments, and Sir James sees no reason why you should not live to be one hundred:

1. Eight hours' sleep.
2. Sleep on your right side.
3. Keep your bedroom window open all night.
4. Have a mat to your bedroom door.
5. Do not have your bedstead against the wall.
6. No cold tub in the morning, but a bath at the temperature of the body.
7. Exercise before breakfast.
8. Eat little meat and see that it is well cooked.
9. (For adults) Drink no milk.
10. Eat plenty of fat, to feed the cells which destroy diseased germs.
11. Avoid intoxicants, which destroy those cells.
12. Daily exercise in the open air.
13. Allow no pet animals in your living-rooms. They are apt to carry about diseased germs.
14. Live in the country if you can.
15. Watch the three Ds—drinking-water, damp and drains.
16. Have change of occupation.
17. Take frequent and short holidays.
18. Limit your ambition, and
19. Keep your temper.

Sir James himself is just over fifty-three, and, assuming that he practises what he preaches, should be carefully inquired for some forty-seven years hence. In this same lecture a very interesting point in vital statistics was brought out. As every one knows, the death rate during the last two hundred years has been enormously decreased. But it is not generally known that all this decrease has been between the ages of birth and thirty-five. He says:

"Those who have passed that age have not so good a chance of living as the people who lived two hundred years ago. The meaning is that now the weaklings among the young are less easily killed off than they were two hundred years ago. With regard to those of thirty-five, those who lived in the olden days had the advantage that there were no telephones, telegrams, trains, daily share-lists or daily newspapers."

According to Sir James Sawyer, then, unless we conform to his rules, the advantages of improved sanitation and medical knowledge are more than counterbalanced by our scientific and mechanical inventions, our daily press and our stock exchange.—*New York Sun.*

THE CREDIT MONEY OF THE COUNTRY.

The cost and inconvenience of transporting money from one part of the country to another was aptly illustrated at Topeka the other day when it became necessary for the Rock Island railroad to send \$257,000 to Chicago. If the money had been sent in greenbacks or gold the express charges would have been \$321.50; if in silver, \$577.75; but the railroad people rejected all three and made the transfer with a bank draft at a cost of only two cents. The credit money is the real money of the country, and laws to strengthen it are wiser than laws in relation to the coinage of any metal.—*Kansas City Journal.*

BOTANICAL.

Willie—"Pa, what kind of plants are 'widow's weeds?'"

Papa—"Oh! a sort of mourning-glory, in most cases."—*Puck.*

A GOOD ROOT CUTTER.

After all that has been said and done to demonstrate the great value of feeding roots to live stock, more particularly cows and sheep, it is not necessary to say more than that the growing and feeding of roots would be much more common to-day if it had not been for the difficulty that has existed in putting them into proper shape to feed with economy and safety. The old-time practice of cutting up roots with a knife, cleaver, hatchet or spade, was a slow process and was also quite dangerous because so many animals were lost from choking. The modern Banner Root Cutter, made by O. E. Thompson & Sons, Ypsilanti, Mich., removes these objectionable features and combines rapidity and quality in its work with safety in its results. The Banner shaves off a long, thin, half-round shaving that presents no obstacle to consumption by even the young lambs. It is the only cutter made that is equipped with a self-feeding device which keeps the roots always pressing upon the knives. It also has a shaking grate, which shakes up the roots on their way to the knives, thoroughly separating all adhering particles of dirt, etc. They are made in four sizes for operating either by hand or power. The capacity ranges from 40 to 400 bushels an hour. They are well and strongly built, of good material, by honest workmanship, and are handsomely painted. With anything like ordinary care they will last a lifetime. If you need a root cutter, you should at once write to them for catalogue.

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There was a circus at Chanute a few days ago, and an old farmer concluded he would take his wife to it. He had about \$75 in change in his pocket, and as a matter of precaution he took along a revolver, knowing that he would not get home until late at night. After the circus was over the old farmer spied a "shell game," and tried to beat it. In about ten minutes he had lost \$75. His wife was present at the performance. She concluded that the old man had got up against a "regular swindling game," as she termed it, and decided to help him out. She took the revolver out of his pocket and poked it under the nose of the operator of the shell game and coolly told him to give back the old man's money. The gambler handed it over, and, turning to the old farmer, she said:

"Now, pa, we'll go home, and you can't never go to another circus as long as you live."—*Kansas City Journal.*

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Selections.

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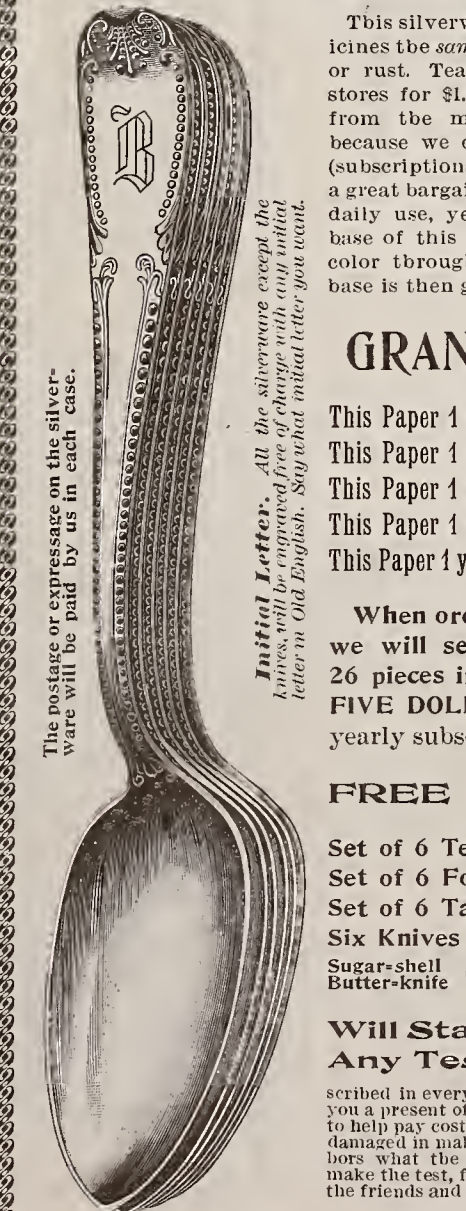
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Corinthian, ko-rin'thi-an, a. An order in architecture, distinguished by fluted columns and capitals ornamented with acanthus-leaves.—n. A gay fellow; pl. two epistles written by St. Paul to the church of Corinth.



Corinthian order.

corium, kō-rī-um, n. The innermost layer of the skin in mammals; the true skin.
cork, kork, n. The outer bark of a species of oak, of which stopples for bottles and casks are made; the tree itself; a stopple made of cork.—v.t. To stop with a cork; to confine or make fast with a cork.—**corked**, a. Having acquired the taste of cork from a bad cork being used as stopper; blackened with burnt cork.—**cork leg**, n. An artificial leg in the formation of which cork is used.—**corkscrew**, n. A screw to draw corks from bottles.—v.t. To direct or work along in a spiral; to wriggle forward.—**corky**, a. Consisting of cork; resembling cork.
corm, korm, n. A bulb-like part of a plant, consisting of the dilated base of the stem, as in the crocus; a solid bulb.
cormorant, kor'mō-rant, n. A large sea-bird of the pelican family, extremely voracious; a glutton.
corn, korn, n. A grain; a seed; the seeds of wheat, rye, barley and oats; grain; in England, wheat, in America, maize; the plants while they are growing or in sheaf; a hard, horny excrescence on a toe or foot.—v.t. To preserve with salt in grains, as meat; to form into small

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grains; to granulate.—**corn-bread**, n. A bread made from corn-meal.—**corn-cob**, n. The spike around which the grains of corn form.—**corn-cracker**, n. A name applied to the lower class of whites in the southern part of the United States.—**corn-crib**, n. A shed used for storing corn.—**corn-dodger**, n. A cake of corn-meal baked very hard, much used in the South.—**corn-fritter**, n. A fried cake made from Indian corn.—**corn-mill**, n. A grist-mill for grinding corn on the cob for the use of stock.—**corn-pone**, n. A kind of corn-bread.—**corn-shuck**, n. Husk around an ear of corn.—**corn-shucking**, n. A social gathering to help a farmer in husking corn.—**corny**, a. Producing or containing corn; tasting of corn or malt.
corn-crake, korn'krāk, n. The crake, or land-rail, noted for its strange harsh cry.



Corn of crocus.

cornea, kor'nē-a, n. The horny, transparent membrane in the forepart of the eye, through which the rays of light pass.
cornel, kor'nel, n. Dogwood, a tree whose wood is hard, resembling horn, and which yields fruit resembling cherries.
corneous, kor'nē-us, a. Horny; consisting of a horny substance; hard.
corner, kor'nēr, n. A projecting extremity; the place

CORONATION

where two lines or surfaces meet; an angle; a secret or retired place; a confined or narrow place; a nook; a clique who unite to raise the price of stocks.—v.t. To create a scarcity by securing control of the supply; to drive into a position of difficulty.—**cornered**, a. Having corners or angles.—**corner-stone**, n. The stone which lies at the corner of two walls, and unites them; that upon which any system is founded.—**cornerwise**, adv. Diagonally; with the corner in front; not parallel.
cornet, kor'net, n. A sort of trumpet shaped like a horn; a piece of paper twisted up for wrapping small articles in; formerly an officer of a troop who bore the standard.—**cornetcy**, n. The commission or rank of a cornet.

cornice, kor'nis, n. Any molded projection which crowns or finishes the part to which it is affixed; the upper great division of an entablature.

cornucopia, kor-nū-kō'pī-a, n. The representation of a horn filled with fruit, flowers and grain, and used as a symbol of plenty and peace.

corolla, kō-ro'lī-a, n. The part of a flower inside the calyx, surrounding the parts of fructification, and composed of one or more petals.

corollary, kor'ol-lā-rī, n. Something added to a proposition demonstrated; an inference from a preceding proposition; hence, a conclusion or consequence drawn from premises; something additional or superfluous.

corona, kō-rō'nā, n. A halo or luminous circle around one of the heavenly bodies; a luminous appearance observed during total eclipses of the sun; the lower member or drip of a classical cornice; the circumference or margin of a radiated composite flower; a circular chandelier; a musical sign denoting a pause.—**coronal**, kor'ō-nal, a. Belonging to the crown or top of the head.—n. A crown, wreath or garland.—**coronary**, a. Relating to a crown or something likened to a crown.

coronation, kor'ō-nā'shon, n. Act or solemnity of crowning a sovereign; the pomp attending on a coronation.—**coronet**, kor'ō-net, n. An inferior crown worn by princes and noblemen; an ornamental head-dress; the lower part of the pastern of a horse.—**coroneted**, a.

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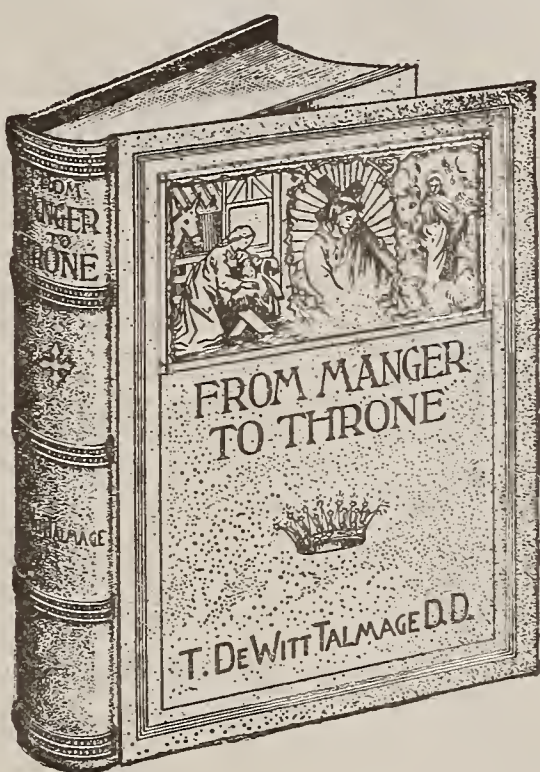
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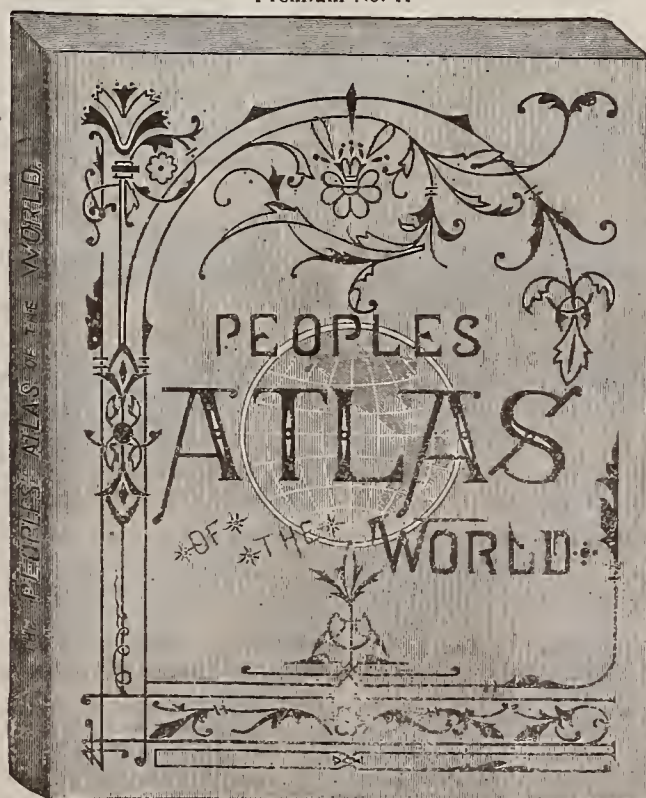
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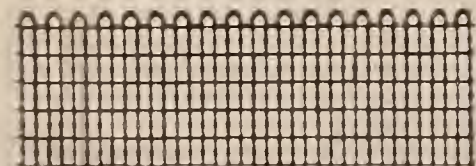


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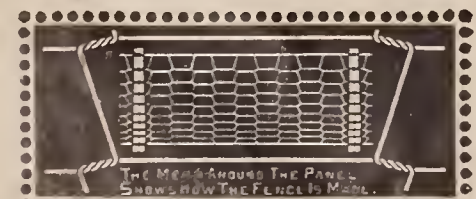
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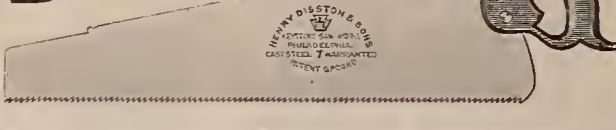


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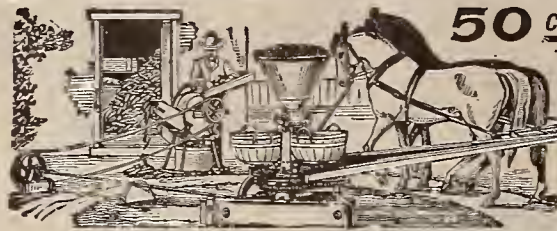


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VOL. XXI. NO. 8.

JANUARY 15, 1898.

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failed to add a goodly sum each year to the property from the profits made. We started out with the avowed purpose of never permitting any fakirs of any kind on the ground, no pool-selling, no games of chance, but a legitimate agricultural fair. Our display this year in all departments was said by people who have attended a large number of fairs to equal if not surpass anything they had seen. We have adhered strictly to our rules, and I am confident that all our managers believe that it is far more profitable than any other course. I believe that if this course was followed by other agricultural fairs in the country, they would prove not only of greater benefit to the people who attend them, but also to the stockholders."

DURING the five months preceding the enactment of the present tariff law, imports were about \$100,000,000 in excess of the normal importations of that period. Sugar, wool and other articles were rushed into our ports in anticipation of higher duties under the new law. As a consequence, it will be several months from its time of enactment before the present law produces its normal amount of revenue, but the steady increase from month to month indicates that it will be producing revenue abundantly long before the close of the present fiscal year, June 30, 1898.

Under the new law the monthly receipts are, in round numbers, \$19,000,000 for August, the first full month; \$21,900,000 for September, \$24,000,000 for October, \$25,000,000 for November, and \$27,700,000 for December. The receipts in December exceeded the expenditures, the surplus being over one and one half millions. However, the expenditures in December were below the average. For four years past the average of expenditures a month has been \$30,000,000. When sugar imports are resumed, and later wool, the monthly average of revenues will exceed this and give a yearly surplus. Five months' experience, under unfavorable conditions, demonstrates that the new law will, under normal conditions, produce abundant revenue, unless Congress should enlarge the expenditures.

Chairman Dingley, of the ways and means committee, in a recent statement on the revenue outlook, says: "There is no doubt in treasury circles that the revenue under the new tariff law, from January 1 to July 1, will exceed in the aggregate the expenditures for the same period, notwithstanding January and April—the two months for payment of quarterly interest—will show a balance on the wrong side. * * * This increase (in monthly receipts) will go on as the goods imported in anticipation of the new tariff are consumed. Indeed, the increase of revenue, to which the present consumption of imported sugar and wool of classes 1 and 2 entitles the treasury, has only begun to be felt as to sugar, and as to wool, will not be felt materially for several months. * * * While the apparent deficiency for the first half of the present fiscal year has been about forty-five millions (the revenues having been nearly one hundred and fifty-eight millions, and the expenditures two hundred and two millions), yet it will be observed that this would have been almost wiped out by the thirty-eight millions of revenue received from March 1 to July 1 from importations in excess of the same period of the previous year, made in anticipation of the new tariff and intended for consumption the present fiscal year, which revenue was necessarily placed to the credit of the last fiscal year, but in equity belongs to this fiscal year. And this does not take into account the absolute loss of revenue arising from anticipatory importations which the treasury had already experienced and will continue for several months to experience in a less degree."

PROSPERITY must be very robust, indeed, when a paper like the New York "Journal" acknowledges it in the following words:

"In many respects the year which has just closed was the most remarkable in the history of the financial and commercial interests of the country. It opened with a

lamentable lack of confidence in the stability of the currency of the nation and in the whole financial structure. During the first six months by slow progression confidence was restored, and during the closing half by leaps and bounds the domestic and foreign trade of the country has jumped into a position commanding the attention of the whole world.

"Never before in the history of the country has the export trade reached such enormous proportions. The bulk of it occurred during the last six months, making the total for eleven months of the year \$974,600,000, against \$888,700,000 in 1896, \$732,300,000 in 1895, and \$740,200,000 in 1894.

"With this enormous balance of trade in our favor we have held the whip-hand in the money markets of the world. All over the western states mortgages which had been standing for years have been wiped out, and balances left on deposit in local banks."

REGARDING subjects likely to come up soon before Congress, press correspondence from Washington states: "Perhaps one of the most interesting to farmers is Postmaster-General Gary's scheme for the establishment of postal savings banks. General Gary is cocked and primed to go to Congress and exploit the advantages of his scheme, and undoubtedly has plenty of statistics and figures with which to back up his statements. He claims that the establishment of these banks throughout the rural districts will be of incalculable benefit to the farmer, the mechanic and the laboring man generally, whose savings may be comparatively small, and who is not situated near to or does not desire to place them in the hands of a private bank. Mr. Gary states that there must be hundreds of thousands, millions of dollars hidden away in this country, as the figures of Canada, Great Britain and other countries having the system in operation indicate that large amounts are annually deposited in their postal savings banks in small accounts."

The establishment of the proposed postal savings banks system will provide the facilities needed for making small savings where now there are none. In but few states are there now enough savings banks.

Where they are distributed over the territory with some uniformity in relation to business and population, affording all the opportunity, deposits in the aggregate are enormous. In a letter to the Boston "Herald," Mr. Edward Atkinson says:

"In a recent address before the Savings Banks Association of the state of New York, I submitted the following figures: 'In round figures, one half the inhabitants of Massachusetts, mainly persons of small or moderate means, possess certificates of deposit in the savings banks of the commonwealth to the amount of \$463,000,000; with their reserves and cash added \$188,000,000 at the last report; probably today \$500,000,000. If my approximate estimate is correct, the average deposit is at the rate of \$200 for every head of population in the state of Massachusetts. The number that have open accounts at the present time is considerably more than one half the entire population. A small number have duplicate deposits.'

"Now let it be borne in mind that there is not a state in this Union which is not in possession of greater natural resources from which savings may be derived than the state of Massachusetts. So far as conditions or resources create opportunity, there is not a state in the whole country which has not a greater ability to make such savings in greater measure if these resources are worked with the intelligence and vigor which are compulsory in Massachusetts.

"Let it be assumed that, in the course of twenty years, by the exercise of thrift and intelligence under just and equal laws, the people of this country, as a whole, should have attained a saving in small sums equal to one half the present average in the state of Massachusetts, or \$100 a head. We now approximate 75,000,000 in our population. A saving of one half that which exists on deposit in the savings banks of Massachusetts would require an investment of \$7,500,000,000."

WITH THE VANGUARD

BBETTER conditions in farming favor an increased attendance this year at the winter schools of agriculture. The short winter courses in agriculture and horticulture provided by a number of the agricultural colleges have been improved from year to year, and now furnish practical training in the very best methods of general farming, stock-raising, dairying, gardening and fruit-growing. Such training is a necessity for the successful farmer of the future. He may get it by experience on the farm, but he can get it sooner and cheaper by doing some winter work in a good school of agriculture.

IN many places agricultural fairs have been diverted from their legitimate purposes and turned into mere circus combinations. In some places the evils connected with the latter have grown to be intolerable. Fakirs work all sorts of fraudulent schemes, disreputable showmen give exhibitions that are grossly immoral, and gamblers run swindling games openly. Such things eventually kill the fair and drive the agricultural society out of existence.

As an example of the true kind take that of the Valley Fair Association, of Vermont. It has given twelve annual fairs, and the last one was even a greater success than ever before. This fair is patronized by the best people of the Connecticut Valley, and the attendance last fall was six thousand the first day and fifteen thousand the second. The treasurer of the society, Mr. Estey, says:

"We started in with a capital stock of \$10,000, with which we bought our grounds, and commenced the buildings for the accommodation of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, farm products, agricultural and mechanical implements, etc., etc., and we now have a property that has cost us \$25,000—and all but the original capital stock has been made from the fairs. We have never

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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

The Subsoiling Question. Subsoiling has always been more or less of a bugbear to American farmers. In fact, there are many localities in which it would not be a very easy matter to find a subsoil-plow, if you wished to see or borrow one. The beet-sugar and sugar-beet agitation has now brought the subject to the front. The capitalists who are ready to put their money into expensive sugar-factories insist on it that the beet-growers subsoil their land before engaging into beet culture. It is well known, and the experience of European beet-sugar makers and beet-growers testifies, that sugar-beets are very sensitive to the influence of deficiency in moisture, and under adverse conditions in this respect will fail to develop the percentage of saccharine matter that is absolutely necessary for fullest success in sugar-making. The main root and the root-fibers must have a chance to reach well down into a stratum of perpetual moisture—and this necessity has led to the practice of subsoiling beet-lands. Of course, where the sugar-beet is thus benefited, other crops will reap some benefit also, and indeed there are a large proportion of our soils which it would pay as well to subsoil, whether we grow sugar-beets or other crops.

* * *

When to Subsoil. There is a right way and a wrong way of subsoiling. Several of our experiment stations have recently investigated the subject with more or less thoroughness. In most cases subsoiling when done in the fall has proved a decided benefit, especially on soils resting on a hard and packed subsoil. The fall and winter rains soak into the surface layer, six, eight or ten inches deep, as the case may be, but cannot enter the hard subsoil, so that the excess of water runs off the surface into ditches and streams. Then when this surface moisture has evaporated during a dry spell in spring or summer, there is no further sup-

ply to fall back on, and the crops must soon suffer. Subsoiling deepens the natural water reservoir, and allows the water (otherwise allowed to run off) to be stored up in the subsoil, as a reserve ready to be drawn on when the rains fail us during the growing season. A writer in one of my exchanges sums up the difference between subsoiling in the fall and doing it in spring, as follows: "If this subsoil reservoir be made in the fall, it will, like a porous sponge, soak full of water during the winter and spring rains, and from melting snows. But if subsoiling be delayed till spring it cannot be done till the spring rains cease and the soil becomes dry enough to plow, and then there being no water to soak down and fill the spaces between the loose particles of earth, air presses its way down and absorbs what little moisture there is. Thus it is that fall subsoiling catches and stores water for next summer's drought, while spring subsoiling lets in the air to dry out what little moisture there is."

* * *

Saving Soil Moisture. After having secured an increased supply of moisture by subsoiling, the next problem is how to use it most economically—with least waste. The waste is not only by evaporation from the bare surface, but also by evaporation from the leaves of plants "out of place." The former is easily held within lowest possible limits by thorough, rather shallow cultivation (as has often been explained); the latter should be entirely prevented by preventing all weed-growth and by timely thinning. Where the supply of moisture is limited, "two stalks of corn in a hill may fail to develop good ears, when one would have borne a good ear." The results obtained in experiments made with soil in galvanized iron pots under well-controlled conditions, at the Kansas Experiment Station, are quite interesting, and give the following observations:

"(1) That a layer of finely pulverized soil only three fourths of an inch thick had no marked influence on the rate of evaporation. (2) That a hay mulch two inches thick checks evaporation most effectively, but that evaporation proceeds at so rapid a rate from bare soil that a mulch, to be most useful, must be promptly applied. (3) That the rate of evaporation from a sandy soil is less than that from one less sandy, when both are kept constantly wet, but if allowed to dry, the sandy soil becomes much drier. (4) That neither salt, gypsum, lime nor magnesium chloride exerts any beneficial effect in checking evaporation from the soil, the evaporation being practically the same as from untreated soil." Point 4 does not agree with the generally accepted notion that salt helps to save or increase soil moisture; but it is undoubtedly correct. I also doubt whether ashes have much influence in this direction, except where applied (as may be done with coal-ashes) in such quantities as to change the texture of the soil.

* * *

Profit and Loss in Cows. It takes pretty good management in feeding and care of stock, and in handling the milk, to secure fair profits on the butter made, even from the better grades of cows. But no management, however skillful and scientific, no ration, however well balanced, can make the production of butter from a very large number of the cows, as we find them on average farms, profitable at all. Many—a great many—of the cows in the country do not fully pay for their keep. That is a deplorable fact, and from the study of station and other reports I find that there are many such unprofitable cows, even among those that are considered of good blood, and among the thoroughbreds. In a table published by the North Carolina Experiment Station, for instance, I find the results of experiments in keeping sixteen cows in 1896. Half of these cows gave a net profit of from \$4.52 to \$39.36 a cow, while the other half gave a net loss ranging from 92 cents to \$15.86 a cow. The value of the butter was estimated at 25 cents a pound. At the prices which a large number of farmers receive for their butter almost all these cows would have given a net loss. This shows the great need of weeding out our dairies. We keep far too many unprofitable cows. The bulletin says on this point:

"From the above notes and the tables

showing condensed record of the cows on the experiment farm it will appear plain to every reader that there are some cows in this herd that do not pay for their food. This has been apparent for some time, but some have not been culled out before the end of this year's record in order to give time, after the trouble from epizootic abortion was over, for cows to resume a normal flow of milk, thus avoiding hasty judgment and consequently erroneous work. A strong example in this line of feeding at cost should set farmers to thinking, and weighing feed and milk, and to using the Babcock tester in earnest."

* * *

Cost of Keeping Cows. Keeping cows is rather expensive. The value of the food consumed by these cows at the station is given by the bulletin as ranging somewhere near \$60 a cow for a year. The most profitable cow consumed \$59.87 worth of food. The farmer who keeps ten cows thus incurs an annual expense of about \$600. But how many farmers have a gross income of that amount from ten cows? The station paid the following prices for feed-stuffs: Corn-silage, a ton, \$5; soy-bean and cow-pea vines, \$7.50; corn-shucks, \$7 to \$9; rye hay, oats in straw, \$10; cotton-seed meal, \$20; wheat bran, \$16, and linseed-meal, \$22. Just at present we can buy most of these feeds at much lower rates. We now pay \$11 a ton for bran, and good hay or corn-stalks can probably be had at from \$5 to \$7 a ton. Linseed-meal alone is higher than it was last year, and I had to pay \$23.50 a ton for the last lot. But even then we have to figure closely in order to secure satisfactory returns from feeding our best cows. The poor ones are not worth feeding, except for beef or for milk at high retail rates.

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Farm Help. It is a good idea to secure, right now, all the help needed on the farm the coming season. Almost every farmer is acquainted with a few good, experienced hands, and if he hires now he can have his choice. The securing of careful, efficient help frequently means the difference between a good crop and a poor one. A thoroughly good farm-hand, one who knows how to do what he is told and does it in the best manner possible, is actually worth twice as much as one who is ignorant or careless. Poor work, or a few hours' delay, at a critical time, caused by avoidable accidents to machinery, will cost the farmer more than the difference between good and poor wages.

In hiring help it is not advisable to rate the services of a thoroughly good hand lower than he rates them himself. If you engage the services of a capable man at his own rating—even though it may be a considerable advance above the average wages paid in the neighborhood—you put him on his mettle, you satisfy him that you fully believe he is a valuable assistant and worth more to you than ordinary men, and naturally he will strive to prove that he is.

* * *

Some men are a hindrance rather than a help in many operations on the farm. They seem to be too dull, too beetle-headed to understand what is wanted of them. They can work, and work hard, but they accomplish so little that they actually do not earn their board. They break tools, injure animals and have to be constantly watched while at work to prevent them from doing the very thing you do not want them to do. A farmer of my acquaintance sent a man he had hired for a few days into the field to thin out a couple of acres of corn that had been planted too thickly by another man. He told him distinctly to leave four plants in each hill, and in every instance to leave the strongest plants. After he had been at work a few hours a neighbor boy, who couldn't understand his antics, went to see what he was doing; and he found him pulling four of the strongest plants out of each hill. When there were only three or four plants in a hill he had pulled all of them. He was working lively and had about ruined over two acres. Another farmer sent a man into the field to replant hills of corn that the squirrels had taken. He said: "When you find a hill with only one plant in it, put in three grains about a foot from it. He worked two days, and then the farmer went out to help him and

discovered that he had been planting the three grains on any side of the single plants that came handiest. Of course, the work had to be done over again."

A friend of mine sent a man into a back field to cut down a patch of ragweed that had grown on a half acre that was too wet to plow in the spring. He had just hired the man that morning, and as he said he had worked on a farm all his life my friend supposed he "knew beans." About a hundred yards from the weed-patch was a half acre of fine buckwheat in full bloom, and what did the fellow do but slash down the buckwheat instead of the weeds! As that was all the work that was pressing just at that time, my friend paid the man seventy-five cents, gave him a good dinner and sent him on his way rejoicing. He did not discover the "accident" until nearly a week had passed.

* * *

It is a mistake to quarrel with help, or even to use harsh language, if they fail to execute your orders as you desire. Nothing is made by quarreling with them. Simply point out their errors and quietly tell them you shall expect better work hereafter. If through ignorance or carelessness they fail to do better work, pay them off in a business-like manner, and offer to deliver their effects at any convenient point in town the first time you go. When compelled to discharge help because they are inefficient, always do it in the same manner that you would sell a load of corn. It is simply a business transaction and calls for no swearing or lachrymation. Pay them in full up to the end of the day of discharge, and there will be no cause for ill-feeling on either side.

* * *

The Garden. Some of these winter days it will be a good idea to look over your stock of garden-seeds and make out a list of what you will need. With the assistance of your wife you can also draw up a plan of a garden. Make a little sketch of it, and mark the sections where the different kinds of vegetables are to be grown. Radishes, lettuce and such early vegetables should come first, nearest and most convenient to the house. Then comes peas and things that grow quickly and are soon gone. Have the autumn and winter truck—carrots, parsnips, etc., etc.—farthest from the house. Plan for a good supply of all the leading kinds of vegetables, and if possible, get such things as peas, beets, parsnips, etc., in rows running the entire length of the garden, so that you can run through them with your garden-cultivator in a few minutes any day.

By making lists of what you need, and laying plans for the thousand and one odd jobs about the farm and garden now, while you have the time, a vast amount of half-way work and lots of bad blunders will be avoided.

When one is rushed and working early and late he has no time or inclination to potter over little jobs or study up plans. Then a man wants to know exactly what he has to do and how to do it best. If the matter is already planned and everything in readiness, he can go at it with a will, and complete it with some satisfaction.

FRED GRUNDY.

HOG-CHOLERA.

There is prospective fun ahead in Iowa among certain swine-men and farm papers. Hog-cholera is now raging in that section. A man went up there from Georgia with a hog-cholera remedy and promised to do great things. But the so-called "remedy" proved a flat failure. Now, according to a local farm paper, the parties who exploited the hog-medicine with a blare of trumpets, consisting of a "daily paper, an agricultural paper and a leading citizen," have taken upon themselves the task of exploiting another claimed remedy. This time the remedy hails from Tennessee. The paper from which I quote is a rival of the farm paper interested in the test. It accuses the other papers of "trying to bleed the farmers," and makes use of many epithets and expletives not admissible among gentlemen. Now, I happen to know that the second remedy under test, if it has a fair show, will do what its discoverer claims for it—"cure eighty per cent of sick hogs and prevent the disease in all well ones." This paper has gone clear up into the clouds with its pyrotechnic invective. In what condition will it be when it falls and strikes the cold, frozen ground? DR. GALEN WILSON.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

SAFE CROP ROTATION.—While visiting an old and fertile agricultural section of our county, I was struck by the importance attached by every one to stable manure as a prime requisite in the five years' rotation that included corn, oats, wheat, clover and timothy. The sod-land, broken for corn, must have its dressing of manure. The manure is spread in the fall, if the supply be sufficient, and the sod is then broken and left exposed to winter frosts. The undressed sod is broken and top-dressed during the winter. In any event there must be an application of stable fertilizer. Such practice calls for the feeding of all the corn, oats and hay upon the farm, and the income must be gotten from live-stock and wheat. Such farm methods are exceptionally safe, so far as maintenance of fertility is concerned.

Too Much TIMOTHY.—In this rotation timothy is sown with the wheat in the fall, and clover is sown in the spring. The first crop of hay is usually chiefly clover, although it is a mixed hay, but the hay crop the second year is practically all timothy. As none of the hay is intended for market, it seems to me that the timothy is too prominent among the crops of these farms. The feeding of stock is not always profitable, and the conversion of all farm products, wheat excepted, into manure is practised only for sake of soil fertility, a less price often being realized in feeding than could be secured by direct sales. Timothy is not one of our best feeds, and it is hard on land. The question then is, why not reduce the amount of this grass, and while thus reducing the total supply of manure, also cause a decrease in the need of it?

A FOUR-YEARS' ROTATION.—When timothy hay is a profitable market-crop, this five-years' rotation, or even a longer one that furnishes more crops of hay, is defensible if means of maintaining fertility are possible, but I write of men who sell no hay. In such cases, a four-years' rotation seems better. The year of timothy is dropped out, and a heavy clover-sod is rotted in the soil once in every four years. The year of timothy exhausts much of the strength added by the preceding clover, and the supply of manure must then be large. The four-years' rotation brings in the corn oftener in a long series of years, and that plant furnishes two or three fold the amount gotten from timothy. It also furnishes more wheat—a cash article. It maintains fertility more effectually because it gives a better sod to the soil and does it at shorter intervals than in the longer rotation.

LIME LAND.—In such a rotation of crops lime is applied every five or ten years, and the rule seems to be to use about sixty bushels to the acre every five years, or about double that amount every ten years. Good farmers say that the lime is effective, no matter when applied or to what crops. This is doubtless true, but it is highly probable that the most economical application may be made in the spring on an inverted sod. This is true only because a light application under these circumstances may be as effective as heavier applications at other times. It can be mixed with the soil at once, and has a store of organic matter to work upon. Lime tends to sink, and hence the objection to plowing it under. It costs money just as fertilizer does, and the smaller the application in securing a certain effect the more economical it is.

TENANT-FARMING.—Tenant-farming is not necessarily a bad thing, but when it means non-resident landlordism much of it is not good for a community or for agriculture. The man who owns land in a school district and township should have a close personal interest in the welfare of the community. This feeling is rarely as strong in the non-resident landowner as in the man who makes his farm the home of himself and family. There is naturally less desire for better schools, roads and the farm improvements that add nothing to income, but that do much to make life worth living. More than this,

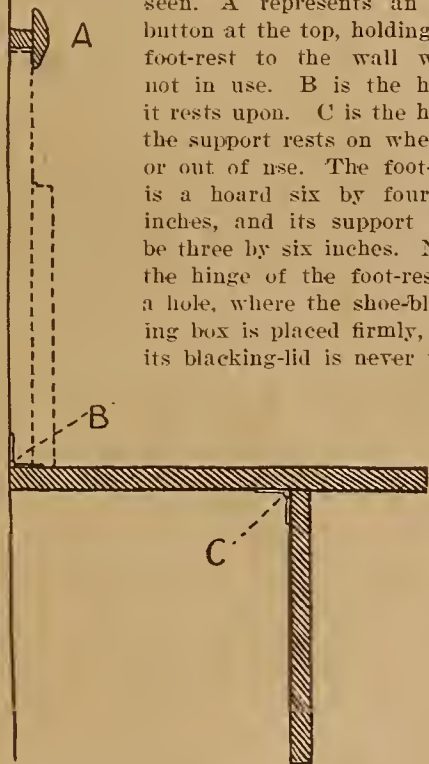
many non-resident landlords make no study of farming, and have no interest in their estates other than that the estates yield good annual income. Cash, in its quickest form, is wanted, and there all knowledge ends. There are shining exceptions to such a rule, but in the main, small farmers owning their farm make the most progressive community.

OWNERSHIP OF HOME DESIRABLE.—To bring out the best of farm life and to bring land up to its fullest capacity resident ownership is usually required. The man who owns the farm he tills has incentive to improving and beautifying his home. Labor and money thus invested increases the value of his place, and he alone reaps the benefit of his enterprise. An owner having a family to care for and a home that is permanent thinks of schools, roads and permanent improvements of the farm. The dollar that he invests in improvements enriches him, and there is no division of interests. The farm is his bank, in which constant investment of money and labor is natural and profitable. This leads to the building up of fertility of the soil, the planting of fruit and ornamental trees and the development of specialties. The results of his study and work are all his own. Where townships are wholly given up to tenant-farming, they usually lag along lines that help to make farms that which they should be—the most desirable of homes.

DAVID.

FOOT-REST FOR SHOE-BLACKING.

The accompanying cut represents a handy foot-rest for shoe-blacking. I have used one for a year and found it the handiest and most conveniently arranged outfit I have ever seen. A represents an oak button at the top, holding the foot-rest to the wall when not in use. B is the hinge it rests upon. C is the hinge the support rests on when in or out of use. The foot-rest is a board six by fourteen inches, and its support may be three by six inches. Near the hinge of the foot-rest is a hole, where the shoe-blackening box is placed firmly, and its blacking-lid is never used



again, by which one avoids the blacking of his hands when in haste.

H. A. CROSSMAN.

BUTTER-MAKING ON THE FARM.

As a matter of course, every one who keeps cows for the purpose of making butter is desirous of making an article that will bring the best price possible, and of making the greatest amount of butter possible out of the milk produced. When the milk is delivered to a creamery it is usually manufactured by those who have been well instructed in the art of butter-making, and the result is that, as a rule, a fairly good article is made. Besides this, the creamery is equipped with appliances which enable its butter-maker to obtain very nearly all the butter contained in the milk; and by his knowledge of what the general butter market demands, he is able to produce an article which is readily sold.

But the case is different with those who make butter on farms, where by far the greater part of the butter in this country is made. While on some farms excellent work is done and a choice article is made, which brings a fancy price, yet through ignorance of correct methods of manufacture and of the demands of the market, and, in many instances, through careless and slovenly habits, the great bulk of farm-made butter fails to bring the price it should, entailing a loss on the farmers of the country which is enormous in the aggregate. It is for the benefit of the latter class that this article is written, with

the hope that some suggestion may be given and some ideas advanced which will serve to improve the methods of the dairyman and increase his profits.

THE FARM SEPARATOR.

By the use of the cream-separator a much more perfect separation of the cream from the milk may be had than by any system of setting milk. This is shown by the increased amount of butter made when the separator is used, and also by the amount of butter-fat left in the milk after skimming, as shown by the Babcock milk-test. It has been found that by no system of gravity-creaming can all the butter-fat be recovered; and usually, under ordinary conditions, a large per cent is lost; while with the separator very nearly all is recovered.

The writer has been engaged in the farmers' institute work, in the state of Wisconsin during each winter for several years. At each meeting milk was tested with a Babcock tester which was carried along for the purpose. Farmers were invited to bring in samples of milk to be tested, in order to show them the variation in value of different milks, and for the purpose of illustrating and explaining the working of the machine. They were especially urged to bring in samples of skimmed milk—that which they thought had been thoroughly creamed—so that the audience might see what the loss was.

For two years the writer preserved the report of these tests, and the average of all was eight tenths of one per cent for the skimmed milk creamed by any gravity method. It varied from one fourth of one per cent to one and six tenths per cent. This was in the winter, when there was no difficulty in having the milk cold enough. There is no doubt that in summer, during the hot weather, the average loss is still greater. If the separating is done on the farm immediately after the milking, the skimmed milk from the separator seldom tests more than one tenth of one per cent, and frequently less than that.

From the results of these tests it seems impossible to escape the conclusion that the average loss, where the milk is set in pans, cans and crocks, is three fourths of a pound of butter more to each one hundred pounds of milk than where the separator is used. This means, with milk of average richness (3.5 per cent butter-fat), a loss of about twenty per cent of the total product of butter. A herd of cows ought to average, each cow, five thousand pounds of milk a year, and would do so if made up of good animals and well managed; but even if they only averaged three thousand, the loss on one cow would be twenty-two and one half pounds of butter, and on ten cows two hundred and twenty-five pounds, which, at twenty cents a pound, would be forty-five dollars a year. It will be seen by this that the loss to the farmers who cream their own milk by a gravity process is enormous in the aggregate. How can any business man succeed and suffer such a percentage of loss? What would be thought of the man who would go on from year to year with a hole in his pocket through which twenty cents would drop out and he lost every time he put a dollar into his pocket? Some men try to console themselves by saying, "It is not all lost; the calves and pigs get the butter." But this is poor consolation, for butter is dear food, even when the price is the lowest. One cent's worth of oil-meal will do the calves and pigs as much good as a pound of butter. Besides this, the skimmed milk from the separator, when it is run through and fed to them immediately after milking, while it is warm and new and sweet, is better food for calves than skimmed milk that is old and partially sour, even though it does contain one fourth of the butter-fat originally in it. This can be attested by hundreds who are using farm separators.

The cost of hand-separators is from sixty-five to one hundred and twenty-five dollars each, according to size and capacity. They will skim from one hundred and sixty to four hundred pounds an hour. Larger sizes with greater capacity are used in large dairies and run with some kind of a power. It would seem that no dairyman who manufactures his own milk into butter, having ten cows or more, could afford to be without a separator. One, if properly cared for, will last for years. If they are turned by hand, it is true that takes time, but not as much time as would be taken in setting and skimming the milk and warming it for calves. All ex-

cept the smallest size hand-separators are so constructed that they can be attached to a power. Some use a small gasoline-engine or some other kind. A light tread-power run by a large dog or some other animal of like size is very economical. A goat has been found to do well.

On the farm of the writer a separator has been run for the past five years, making an average of nearly nine thousand pounds of butter a year. The cost of repairs in that time has been three dollars, and the separator, to all appearance, will last for several years to come. It has a capacity of three hundred pounds of milk an hour. It is run by a two-horse tread-power, which was purchased before the separator was, and which is used for cutting feed, filling silo, etc. The power is run by a Jersey hull, and works very nicely. He needs the exercise; it keeps him docile and gentle, vigorous and healthy, and he seems to enjoy the walking and work. The separating is done while the milking is going on, and ten or fifteen minutes after the last cow is milked the calves and pigs have had the new, warm, sweet skimmed milk. The saving by the use of the separator on this farm has been already a great many times more than the cost of the outfit.—From Farmers' Bulletin No. 57, copies of which can be obtained on application from the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

FARM CONVENIENCES.

There is frequently time enough lost on some farms, through the want of little articles, to accomplish a vast amount of work. To illustrate, I recently saw a man and two boys picking up corn in the field and throwing it directly into the wagon-box instead of using baskets. This necessitated much uncalled-for stooping. Quite in contrast to this was the method practised by a young farmer who recently moved into our community. He had quite a large number of light boxes made of half-inch pine boards. These boxes are about two inches shorter and narrower at the bottom than the top, so that they pack together like sugar-makers pack their sap-buckets. This young farmer distributed his boxes along a row of corn-shocks, and the huskers filled them as the corn was husked. The farmer then came along with his platform-wagon and loaded up the boxes, thus saving all the labor of picking the corn from the ground.

The first farmer would have found it an advantage to have had two good baskets or boxes, permitting the boys to fill them up while he emptied them into the wagon-box. I consider it economical to use boxes instead of baskets. I buy nice boxes of our shoe-dealer, at five cents each, by the wagon load. I select those that are of suitable size and make a handle for each end from a piece of old harness-trace. On smaller boxes I place handles over the center by taking a heavier and longer piece of trace. These boxes will last longer with the same care given them than the average basket, and for most work I prefer them to the baskets.

These boxes I also use for numerous other purposes. The largest ones I make into chicken-coops by removing one side and replacing the boards with plastering-lath. These are light and easily handled, they are tight so as to protect the little chicks, and when infested by lice, as they sometimes will be, it is an easy matter to wash them in kerosene emulsion.

I lately purchased a bone-cutter for the benefit of both the poultry and the back yard. The machine works to perfection, turning easily and cutting the bone in nice condition for the poultry. The hens seem to appreciate the machine's work, for they begin to come in from all directions as soon as they hear me at work preparing their feast, and it is a treat to see how they gather up the tempting morsels.

This bone-cutter and a small corn-sheller are great aids in caring for the poultry. Before securing the bone-cutter it was necessary to cut up the bones with an ax and then pound them up fine, which was a tedious task.

A few barrels or boxes filled with clover chaff will be found excellent additions to the feed-supplies to the poultry-yards during the winter.

Place a good-sized box in some protected corner in which to keep a supply of salt at all times accessible to the milk-cows. It will repay you well to look after their welfare.

JOHN L. SHAWVER.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

GROWING ASPARAGUS.—In my last notes I mentioned the recently issued farmers' bulletin (No. 61) on asparagus culture. To me the subject is so very interesting that I gladly go into a somewhat closer examination of the bulletin. We are told that asparagus was in common use and highly appreciated as a vegetable as early as three or four hundred years ago, and that even then spears



FIG. 1.

weighing over one half pound each were not of uncommon occurrence. This looks as if our more modern methods of culture were not so much ahead of those of the earlier cultivators, for even at the present day the average stalks seen on our markets are inferior in both size and appearance, and spears weighing one-half pound each are now rarely, if ever found. That it is possible to grow such stalks I have not the least doubt. The "variety" has nothing to do with it, either; for under otherwise like conditions I have thus far been unable to discover that there is any difference in regard to size of stalks between the Colossal, Barr's Mammoth, Palmetto or Columbian Mammoth White. The difference between these sorts is found mostly in the color of the young shoots. Some of them, when coming to the surface, have a pinkish or red tinge, while the stalk of the Columbian White, as its name indicates, remains white until the green leaves appear. Size or "fatness" of the stalks, and the superior quality that comes with it, is easily secured by giving to the plant the room that it should have,



FIG. 2.

and all the plant-food that it can absorb and digest, also very loose soil or mold over the crown of the plants.

STARTING A NEW BED.—I agree with the bulletin that much depends on the selection of plants. A good, strong "crown" with few, but well-developed buds and plenty of roots is essential to the production of large and thrifty spears. A "crown" with numerous buds, or eyes, will be more than likely to produce numerous, but small spears, and afford a total yield much less than the other kind. Most expert growers now concede that strong one-year-old plants are to be preferred, and that in the course of years the one-year-old will produce larger and more valuable crops than either two or three years old. Small one-year-old plants, while not as desirable as large ones of the same age, are preferable to larger crowns two years old, and at the end of a year or two will be as large, more vigorous and more productive. In an experiment reported by a French expert, the one-year-old plants at the end of three years yielded almost twice as much as the two-year-old, and nearly three times as much as the three-year-old plants. I am also fully con-

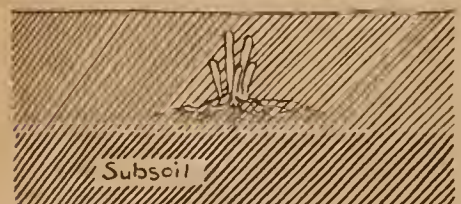


FIG. 3.

vinced that larger stalks and bigger yields can be secured from staminate (or male) plants than from those that bear seed, for seed production must necessarily draw heavily on the plant's vitality. But it will not be an easy task for the average gardener to establish a plantation of all male plants without the use of two-year-old plants, except, perhaps, by setting one-

year-old plants rather thickly, and then cutting out the female plants as they develop as such.

SOIL FOR ASPARAGUS.—Asparagus is a rather robust plant and can accommodate itself to almost all soil conditions. It will grow in sand, in gravel, in muck, in loam of all kinds, and even in soils that lack perfect drainage. I remember what excellent asparagus our people grew when I was a little boy, and yet how our garden, situated on river-bottom land, was flooded and several feet deep under water once or twice every year; sometimes for a week or two at a time. But when growing asparagus for profit, we want, of course, just as warm and well-drained soil as we can get. Indeed, there can be none too good and too perfect for this crop. Warm, well-drained soil means early "grass," and this usually brings the best price. With wide planting and proper feeding, it also means large size or weight of stalks, and superior succulence and appearance. A German author gives the following three rules for guidance in selecting a location for the asparagus-bed: "(1) Choose open, free-laying land, protected to the north and east, of gradual slope, free from trees or shrubbery. (2) The field should be exposed to the rays of the sun all

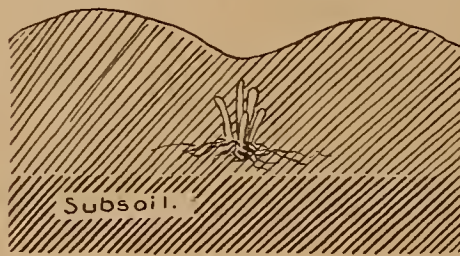


FIG. 4.

day long. A southern exposure is desirable, or if that is not obtainable, a south-westerly or southeasterly slope, because either east, west or north exposure will cause shadows during some portion of the day. (3) Standing, stagnant ground-water, which cannot be drawn off by drainage, is to be avoided, the requirements of the plants indicating a somewhat damp subsoil, but not too high ground-water." My first choice surely would be a "not too porous, but well-drained, light sandy loam, with a clay subsoil." If I cannot get that I would take soil as near like it as could be had. On the other hand, I would care very little about the presence of weeds or weed-seeds. Surface-cultivation by harrow, rake, hoe, etc., will easily conquer all weed-growth.

PLANTING.—I believe in fall plowing and spring planting. The bulletin says on this point: "In late fall or early winter the selected area, should it be a light sandy loam, needs to be deeply plowed, and if the soil is not already of an open and porous



FIG. 5.

nature, through which surface-water will readily drain and the roots easily penetrate, a subsoil-plow should follow, breaking the soil to the depth of at least fifteen inches. After harrowing the field, a good compost of well-rotted horse, cow, sheep or other manure should be spread broadcast and left to the action of the weather until as early in the spring as the ground is in condition to be worked, when the manure should be plowed in the surface, carefully harrowed, and the soil put in a light and pliable condition." When we get ready to set the plants in spring, the land should be replowed and furrows marked out not less than four feet (better five or six feet) apart and ten or twelve inches deep. In the bottom of the furrow the plants are set, as shown in Fig. 2, and after awhile the bed is made nearly level (Fig. 3). A year or two later, when the bed has come to bearing age, we plow the soil away from the rows in spring (Fig. 4), ridging it up between the rows, thus providing easier admittance of the sun-rays to the covering of the crowns, and when the plants begin to show life we throw the loose soil, perhaps mixed with mold, muck, fine old ma-

nure, rotted sawdust, etc., back upon the rows, thus hilling them up as shown in Fig. 5. In this way we have no difficulty to grow those desirable fat spears. The soil above the crowns of the plants is so loose that we can reach down with the hand and break or snap off the roots at their very base, where they are attached to the crown. Never have we had finer "grass" than where we grew it on this plan, and this is the kind that will always find a ready market and highest prices.

T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

BROWN-ROT OF PLUMS.

It is scarcely necessary to repeat the general remarks on treatment for fungus diseases published in several previous bulletins. But concerning brown-rot (*Monilia fructigena*) we may say that only the most persistent effort can hold this fungus in check. As all growers have observed, the decayed fruits hang to the twigs and persist over winter. It is from these in the early days of spring that an abundant crop of spores are borne, and the petals of the flowers, young leaves, and even many branches, are attacked. These mummied fruits also hang on all summer and continue to produce spores. Hence, by the time the fruits become half-grown or begin to mature, the infecting spores may come from the old decayed fruits of the previous year or from more recent infection on the young growth of the current year. Whenever the fruit has become badly attacked treatment is quite useless.

The proper plan is to remove all decayed fruit from the orchard when the trees are free from foliage, as it can be easily seen at this time; then, before the buds swell in the spring, wash the trees thoroughly with a solution of concentrated lye or of sulphate of copper. The first solution should be made by dissolving eight cans of lye in fifty gallons of water, and the copper sulphate solution by dissolving two pounds of copper sulphate (bluestone) in fifty gallons of water. I consider the lye preferable, but the latter may be somewhat pleasanter to handle. This washing is very important and perhaps does as much real good as all later work.

The later washings should be given as follows: Weak Bordeaux just as color shows plainly in the bloom-buds, and repeated soon as bloom has fallen. If the work is well done to this point very little infection will have survived. Concerning value of later sprayings I am very much in doubt. If the early washing is not well done, I have almost no faith in later treatment.

All washing or treatment of orchards should be done with a spray-pump. Poor, half work is usually a dead loss.—Wm. B. Alwood, in Bulletin Virginia Experiment Station.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Planting Buckeyes.—R. M. National Military Home, Wis. Plant buckeyes at once, if the ground can be worked. If frozen too hard for this, bury them in good soil and leave until spring, and then plant them out. They grow very quickly if they are not allowed to become dry before planting.

Grape-seedlings.—R. W. B. Whitewater, Wis. Grape-seeds should be mixed with sand in a small box soon after gathering, and may be buried (box and all) outdoors. In the spring separate the seed from the sand and sow in a nicely prepared bed outdoors, or what is safer, sow in a box indoors. The seed grows rapidly when thus treated, and the plants generally bear in three or four years.

Peach Varieties.—E. B. Moravia, N. Y. Perhaps the Early Crawford is the most popular early freestone peach with yellow flesh. Other good yellow-fleshed varieties are Reeves Favorite, Red Cheek Melocoton and Crosby. The Crosby is becoming very popular on account of its great hardiness, combined with other good qualities. It is yellow-fleshed and a freestone. It is, however, liable to set too much fruit and then to be of small size, and requires heroic treatment for good results. Of white-fleshed varieties, the following are good and arranged in order of ripening: Amosden, Mountain Rose, Old Mixon, Morris White and Stump.

Cherry Varieties.—J. M. E. Severy, Kan. The Royal Aun cherry of the Pacific coast is known in the eastern states under the name of Napoleon. It is a magnificent fruit of the largest size, pale yellow with bright red cheek, very productive and does well in parts of Ohio. The Black Republican is said to be the same as the Snelling. I do not know that it is cultivated in Ohio. Neither of these kinds are probably adapted to the conditions of any part of Kansas, and if you wish to grow a sweet cherry you had better plant the Black Tartarian, Black Eagle or Governor Wood, which are perhaps as reliable as any sweet variety you can grow. Black Tartarian is probably the most popular cherry raised on the Pacific coast. Cherries do not come true from the pits, but trees grown from the pits of good fruit are generally of good edible quality.

Pruning and Scraping Trees.—W. L. B. Ypsilanti, Mich. I should not hesitate at all about pruning during the mild weather of winter, but would think it desirable to cover all the larger wounds made with a good coating of liquid wax or white lead and oil. It would undoubtedly be a good plan to scrape off the rough bark on the trunks and larger branches and then to wash them with weak lye or strong soap-suds. I should prefer the lye wash. This may be safely done at any time, but it done during winter or early spring numerous insects will be destroyed, and it will consequently be more beneficial.

Oyster-shell Bark-louse.—J. Q. D., Keegan, Wis. The safest remedy for the oyster-shell bark-louse is to paint or spray the infested parts with a strong solution of whale-oil soap. Strong kerosene emulsion is also good. Recently Professor Webster has recommended the painting or spraying of the trees with clean kerosene during dry, bright weather while the trees are dormant, as a remedy for all kinds of scale-insects. I have never tried this on apple-trees, but should do so in a small way were mine troubled with scale. Last spring I used it on a Golden willow in my garden that was infested with white scale. I took a paintbrush and worked the kerosene thoroughly into every crevice of the bark, and the result was that the scale was killed most effectually and the tree not injured in the least. But apple-trees might not be able to stand such a remedy though I think they would if the work was done on a bright, breezy day during the winter season, when the oil would dry off quickly.

Field-mice—Horticultural Journal.—N. W. A., Bonfield, Ill. Where field-mice are abundant, it is important to remove all grass and similar materials from around the trees. This is most satisfactorily done by banking around the trees with earth to the height of about one foot. A few spadefuls of earth is generally sufficient to do this, and the steeper the earth is piled up the better. After a snowfall heavy enough to cover up the bank of earth, the mice will often go to gnawing again, but this can be entirely prevented by treading the snow down just around the trees, as the mice will not work through hard snow. In addition to these preventives it is a good plan to mix a little strychnine with corn-meal, place it in a partly open tomato-can and place it on its side in the field. Only a few of the poison cans are needed, as the mice are very sure to find them. I think you will get the most help on general horticulture by getting the reports of the Illinois and Iowa state horticultural societies. Address, Henry M. Dunlap, Secretary, Savor, Ills., for one, and Geo. Van Houten, Secretary, Des Moines, Iowa, for the other.

Hardy Orange—Swiss Chard—Grafting-wax.—W. W., Parsons, Kan. The hardy orange (*Citrus trifoliata*) has, within a few years, been quite generally introduced by the nurserymen of the middle and southern states. It is from Japan, a scrub with strong thorns and three dark green leaflets to each leaf, somewhat like the clover. The flowers are white; fruit yellow, resembling common oranges, but small, only about one inch in diameter, sour and bitter and full of seeds. It makes a very pretty shrub, remaining green very late in autumn, and is a good low hedge-plant. It is hardy as far north as Washington, and the roots wintered over last winter in the nursery of the Minnesota experiment station, although the tops died to the ground. It would probably be hardy with you, but might kill back occasionally. In southern Ohio it will grow well.—Swiss chard is a form of beet, of which the broad leaf-stalks are used like asparagus. It forms but a small root. There are several varieties, among them being those with red and yellow leaves and stalks, and with variegated foliage. It is grown like the beet.—A good grafting-wax is made as follows: Resin, four parts, by weight; beeswax, two parts; tallow, one part. Melt together and pour into a pail of cold water. Then grease the hands and pull the wax until it is nearly white. In using it outdoors in summer, cover with paper to keep it from melting after applying it.

Knots on Apple-roots.—C. B., Leavenworth, Kan., writes: "Last spring I purchased some apple-trees, and among them I found some that had knots on the roots. Some of the knots were about the size of a walnut, while others were about the size of a hazelnut. They were of a spongy nature. Are these trees fit to plant, and what is the cause of these knots? On other apple-trees I had I found a kind of white mold."

REPLY.—Knots on the roots of trees do not necessarily indicate the presence of any serious insect or fungus pest, but when they have a kind of white mold with them I should suspect the injury was caused by the well-known root-lice of the apple (woolly aphid) which is one of the most destructive insects to apple-trees. I should examine the trees this winter, and if their presence was confirmed I would dig and destroy the infested trees. Remedies are occasionally used for this pest in orchards with fair success, such as hot water and bisulphid of carbon; but there is very little chance of successfully combating it, and I always recommend destroying young trees that become infested. This louse may be removed from the roots of small trees by dipping the roots into water heated to about one hundred and fifty degrees, which quickly kills the lice without injuring the trees. Planters should be very particular to get trees that are free from this insect. It is not safe to plant healthy trees where infested trees have been taken out, until at least one year has elapsed.

Rheumatism

Hood's Sarsaparilla Gives Complete Relief, Also Cures Catarrh.

"I was troubled with rheumatism and running sores on my face, and one of my friends advised me to try Hood's Sarsaparilla, which I did. After taking six bottles I was cured. Hood's Sarsaparilla has also cured me of catarrh." MISS MAMIE ETHIER, 4408 Moffitt Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

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Our Farm.

THE OHIO STATE GRANGE.

THE twenty-fifth annual session of the Ohio State Grange was held recently in Columbus. The attendance was large, and the delegates and visitors comprised representative agriculturalists from all parts of the state. With few exceptions the officers were all present and the reports made were instructive and stimulating.

The State Grange has a membership of 30,000, and under the leadership of such men as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, J. H. Brigham, Hon. Seth H. Ellis, the present master, Hon. T. R. Smith, a prominent member of the state legislature, and W. W. Miller, the able secretary of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, it has been a power for good in promoting the agricultural interests of the state.

Master S. H. Ellis, in his annual address, said among other things that the past year had been marked by a fair degree of prosperity to the order in Ohio. Nineteen new granges had been organized, and thirty-four dormant granges had been reorganized, placing on the books an addition of fifty-three granges for the year. In addition to the above there had been quite an increase in membership in many of the older granges, some of them having doubled their strength during the year. Master Ellis urged the members to be untiring in their watchfulness to see that needed legislation is secured, and that vicious enactments are prevented. The pure-food laws, as well as the office of dairy and food commissioner, were secured through the effort and influence of the grange. Their just enactments have met the fierce opposition of the manufacturers and vendors of counterfeit and fraudulent products. Efforts will be made during the coming legislative session to repeal or so modify our pure-food laws as to render them less effective. The grange will see that these laws are rigidly guarded and faithfully executed.

The subject of postal savings banks has been urged upon Congress by the grange for some years past. The state of Ohio should make a demand upon Congress now in session, so powerful that every senator and representative from the state will feel constrained to support and push this measure.

The appalling fruitage of Ohio legislation in its declared efforts to control the evil effects resulting from the use of intoxicating beverages, are so heart-sickening that one becomes bewildered in trying to enumerate them. Crowded jails, overflowing orphanages, multiplied poor-houses, an over-crowded penitentiary, poverty, squalor, wretchedness, misery, debauchery, death in a thousand hideous forms annually can be charged to the credit of the liquor traffic in Ohio.

The state of Ohio is nearing its centennial. In a few years more it will have been one hundred years since Ohio was admitted to the sisterhood of states. Plans are already being arranged for a great centennial exhibition showing by object-lessons the wonderful advances made during the century. In all probability our legislature at its session this winter, will take steps to inaugurate this exposition. To me it seems clear that if such an exposition is held, it should be held at our capital city, and I trust resolutions to this effect will be passed at the session.

In conclusion, let us forget that we vote with different political parties and worship at the altars of churches of different denominations, but let us be statesmen and Christians, with a burning zeal for the ennobling and uplifting of our great commonwealth.

In accordance with the recommendation of Master Ellis, resolutions approving of the proposed celebration of the Ohio centennial were adopted.

Mr. R. L. Holman, at the head of the co-operative branch of the grange, presented a very interesting report. This showed that there was increased interest in the plan of co-operative buying, that the purchases by grange members were larger than ever and that the outlook is unusually bright.

At the afternoon session the report of the committee on good of order was adopted, urging the continuation of the co-operative plan; commending traveling library; advising each grange to send a condensed report of meetings to the agricultural press; recommending that the quarterly bulletin be continued; discouraging the in-

crease of membership simply from mercenary motives.

The committee on resolutions presented a long report, which was adopted without change after a full discussion. The following are the more important resolutions contained in the report:

That we heartily are in favor of free mail delivery in the country, as a matter of justice to our farming population.

That we are in favor of the establishment of postal savings banks and ask Congress to make immediate provisions for the accomplishment of this measure.

That the work and object of the Ohio agricultural station meet with our approval.

That the Ohio state university merits and should have the active support of the farmers of Ohio, and we urge on all farmers to patronize the same by sending their children there for an industrial education whenever it is possible to do so.

That we commend our farmers' mutual insurance companies, and especially those under the management of the patrons of husbandry, to the attention of the patrons of Ohio, and urge on them to give such companies their hearty and loyal support.

That we demand of our dairy and food commissioner a strict enforcement of all laws prohibiting the sale of adulterated food and drug products, whether they come from the dairy, the factory or the soil, and we pledge ourselves to his support in the proper execution of all such laws as are now on the statute-book.

That we favor a general two-cent a mile rate for all railroad travel, and that all tickets sold by railroads shall be honored in the hands of whomsoever found until said tickets are exhausted.

That we favor the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people.

We are in favor of the reduction of the salaries of all national, state and county officials in the ratio that other forms of labor, as well as the means with which to pay them have been reduced, and that we demand of the seventy-third general assembly of Ohio that they enact such laws as will secure such reductions so far as they have power to deal therewith.

That we are in favor of the amendment of our present fish and game laws, so as to make all fish and wild game the property of the owner of the land on which such fish and game may be found.

That we congratulate our state board of agriculture on the success attending the present management of our farmers' institutes, and express our desire for the expansion of the present system as rapidly as circumstances will permit, as a means of promoting agricultural interests of our state.

That so long as protection is the policy of our national government, we demand that agriculture shall receive equal protection with the manufacturing interests of the nation, and we urge Congress to devise some means by which our great export agriculture products, such as wheat, corn, beef, pork, etc., shall receive adequate protection.

That we are in favor of settling all disputes arising between nations by arbitration when possible to do so.

That we are in favor of both gold and silver as primary money, and favor the coinage of both on equal terms, and that we are opposed to withdrawing greenbacks or treasury notes from circulation and substituting in their stead national bank currency.

W. R. L.

WESTERN FARM NOTES.

It has come about that there are few grain crops which can be raised and sold at a profit in the central West. Corn, the great staple, is ruled out of the list entirely by the prices which have prevailed for three years past. Oats and the other minor grains hardly pay the threshing bill. Where the conditions and facilities for growing wheat are favorable, there is a margin of profit at present prices. Vegetable crops are seldom grown for the market except near the large cities. In fact, when the farmer sits down to so apportion his farm that some portion may be relied upon to bring in ready cash during the season, he is at a loss to know what to sow or plant.

This being the condition which confronts us, the only remedy is to turn our grain into cattle, hogs, poultry or butter. It is ruinous to go on raising grain for the market when the prices realized scarcely pay the expenses of production. If it is at all

practicable, each farmer should speedily get enough stock upon his farm to consume the bulk of what he raises. Do not go into debt or mortgage your farm to buy, but rather, if necessary, adopt the slow but sure method of growing into the desired condition.

Even if grain raising was a profitable industry, the time has come when the farmers between the Mississippi river and the Rocky mountains must pay some attention to fertilizing the soil. Even a small bunch of cattle is a great help in keeping a farm productive. Feed during the winter in a small lot, as nearly level as possible. Have ample sheds and provide a good supply of bedding; any refuse hay or straw is good for the purpose. If it is wet and rainy use enough bedding to keep the cattle out of the mud. In the spring, when you plow your corn ground, estimate the number of loads of manure you will have and leave a strip large enough to receive it. As soon as the job of hauling is completed, the land should be plowed quickly and planted, or it may be sown to some forage crop with good results. This policy, pursued year by year, will add greatly to the productive value of a farm.

Burt, Kan.

E. G. K.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM IDAHO.—This is a rolling table-land and is called Camas Prairie. The mean elevation is 3,200 feet above sea level. The soil is a clay loam, excepting around the foot-hills where it changes to a heavy black loam of the most fertile and productive kind. Water is easy to get around the foot-hills, but out on the prairie some of the wells are 60 feet deep. At this place we have the finest water in the country and easily obtainable. Wood is very handy and costs nothing but going after it, a distance of one and one half miles. We have a good school, and plenty of room for more scholars, the district having purchased a large building this fall. We expect to have a creamery here next spring. Wheat yields from 30 to 60 bushels an acre, and other grains proportionately. A half million bushels of grain were raised here this year. Apples and hardy fruits do well here. Apples sell at two cents a pound. Small fruits do well, but very few have been raised so far, selling at three boxes for 50 cents here and three boxes for \$1 in the mining camps. Poultry does well here; eggs are selling for 35 cents a dozen on the prairie and 50 cents to 75 cents in the mines. Baled timothy hay is worth \$8 a ton, \$30 to \$60 a ton in the mines; lumber, \$8 to \$20 a 1,000 feet; horses, \$25 to \$50; cows, \$25; fat hogs, on the farm, 3½ cents. Bacon and lard are shipped from Omaha and Kansas City to this place. Our market is a local one and the best in the world—the mines. Quartz mining has taken a boom during the past eight months. Good improved farms can be bought now for \$10 an acre, but by this time next year they will be much higher. Building lots in this town can be had for \$10 to \$20. We are on the direct and only road to two of the largest mining camps in the country, where it is estimated that over sixty million dollars in gold were taken out during the palmy days of placer mining. They are now taking out large quantities of gold from the quartz. There are still some good placer mines here. One took out \$125,000 last year, and its output has been nearly doubled this year. Taken all in all, I believe there is no place where so many opportunities are presented to the man of moderate means to make a home and lay up something for a rainy day, provided he has a little pluck and energy to back him. We need a good blacksmith with a family, and we need another general merchandise store. This is the county seat of one of the largest and richest counties in the state.

Mt. Idaho, Idaho.

W. T. F.

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INCUBATION AND SUCCESS.

INCUBATION of eggs is performed by incubators and hens. With the farmer the hen is the principal agent for such work, and while all responsibility is placed on her she really performs but one duty in incubation—that of imparting the heat to the eggs. The success or failure of a hatch goes back of the process of incubation. Where the greatest responsibility rests is in the selection of eggs. No two eggs are alike. A lot of eggs may be laid by hens that are in the best of condition, while another lot may be from hens of low vitality, diseased or excessively fat. And even the eggs from the best hens will vary. The truth of the claim that failures are due to the eggs, and not to the sitting hens, as a rule, is shown by the hatching of some chicks, while others are dead in the shells. If a dozen eggs are given a hen and she hatches but one or two chicks, she has, by so doing, given proof that she did her duty, else the two or three chicks would not have hatched. The successful chicks were from eggs laid by hens that were suitable for breeding purposes. The eggs that did not hatch were infertile, or from hens that were unfit to be mothers. The first point in hatching, therefore, is to endeavor to select eggs from hens that are known to be healthy, in laying condition and which are mated with active males. In winter eggs are liable to be injured by severe cold. An egg freezes about ten degrees above zero, and as the expansion of water is sufficient to break the strongest vessel, the egg-shell is no exception. The only safe mode of avoiding injury to eggs from cold is to visit the nests frequently and bring the eggs into the house. When the hen goes on a nest she warms the nest material, and as the egg is warm when laid, it does not freeze immediately, thus allowing some time for it to remain in the nest. To mitigate the difficulty use warm nests, and keep them filled with plenty of material so as to lessen the liability of the effects of the severe cold.

FARMERS SHOULD KEEP LARGE NUMBERS.

It is not yet impressed upon the farmer that if he intends to make poultry pay he must not conduct a side business with fowls, but give his whole time and attention to their management. The average farmer has for generations looked upon a flock of hens as self-supporting to a certain extent. It is true he may throw out a few handfuls of corn in winter, during severely cold days, and overlook so doing occasionally, but he enters upon a new system when he undertakes to raise large numbers, and he has much to learn, because custom has long caused him to follow certain lines which he will find it difficult to discard. The clerk in the city, who was never on a farm, will succeed when the farmer fails, simply because the clerk will have the future only before him, while the farmer must learn with the past hanging to him and hindering him in every manner. This is an era of new ideas, and the only way to learn is to be willing to test all theories and to experiment. The capital required to conduct the poultry business will depend upon how soon one desires to get well into it. The amount necessary to put up buildings and procure stock the first year, if one is impatient to commence, may reach well up into the thousands of dollars, but if a beginning is made and five years are allowed during which to create a business, one can begin with hundreds, as any increase of the flocks is also an increase of capital. More important than capital is the experience gained every year. There is not much to learn by going on a farm where a small flock is kept, as a person must be sufficiently interested to give time and attention to the details in order to learn how to have the fowls always in prime laying condition.

"BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES" are a simple and convenient remedy for Bronchial Affections and Coughs. Sold only in boxes.

GREEN FOOD IN WINTER.

Green food should be given in some form if it can be obtained, as it is essential to thrift and egg production. The object in feeding green food in the winter is not because such food is valuable in the essential elements composing the eggs, but because the concentrated food deranges the digestive organs and the fowls get out of condition. It is because dietary systems are advantageous that they are suggested. Cabbages, potatoes, turnips, carrots, etc., are largely composed of water, and will not provide a large proportion of the matter devoted to the production of eggs, but it is in dieting more than in the quantity of food allowed that the best results are obtained. For instance, feed a small flock on one quart of corn-meal and a pint of cooked potatoes, and another on a pint and a half of corn-meal, and the hens that receive the mixed food will lay more eggs than the others, yet there is more real nutritious matter in the three pints of corn-meal than in the mixed food, but the hens receiving the mixed food will digest the food better, and a variety promotes health. Bulky food in winter always gives excellent results, and if cabbage cannot be obtained use anything that will prove acceptable that can be procured rather than to feed exclusively on grain.

COST OF THE LAND.

Poultry may be said to occupy no land at all, as fowls can be kept on land already in use by animals or upon which a crop may be growing. If land is not too restricted there is everything to gain and nothing to lose from the occupancy of the ground by poultry. It is just as feasible to grow crops and have fowls as to omit the latter. Fruit and eggs can be produced on the same soil. The hens do no damage to garden crops except just when the plants are beginning to appear above the ground. After that time any damage done by fowls will be insignificant. As a rule, all eggs derived in summer may be considered as extra gain, because at that season of the year the fowls have ample opportunity to assist themselves and entail little or no expense on their owner. It is not necessary to fence in a flock on a farm, and if fences are to be used, it is better to fence the fowls out of the garden than to confine them in yards, as it compels the farmer to devote more work to the fowls when they are confined. He may be able to give them close attention in winter, but in summer the crops take up his time.

BREEDING-STOCK FOR NEXT YEAR.

Good breeding-stock—that from which the future layers are to come—is the foundation of success. In saving breeding-stock for next year keep the old turkeys, geese and ducks, and also all hens that have done good service. It is possible that they may have fallen behind those that are young, but it is a rule that the strongest young stock are procured from the matured birds. The hundreds of chicks that fall by the wayside and perish from no apparent cause are the offspring of pullets. This breeding from the younger stock every year is destroying the turkeys. With geese the fault is not so frequent, as old geese are not salable in market, the young ones only being sold, and the result is that geese give less trouble in raising them than any other class of poultry. At the present day there is too much reliance placed on young ducks for breeding purposes, and the fact is being brought out that the losses of ducklings are increasing every year. When the old ducks only are used, and breeders will select the best and most vigorous for breeding purposes, the difficulty of weak offspring will be overcome.

MOISTURE ON WALLS.

This difficulty is frequently met with. Old buildings do not seem to have as much moisture on the walls, thus becoming white with frost, as buildings constructed of new lumber. When lumber is seasoned the grain is closer and less moisture penetrates, but new lumber, especially that containing much sap, will show moisture on the walls. This is mentioned because damp walls have been a source of annoyance to some. When tarred paper is used apply it on the outside instead of on the inside of the walls.

AVOIDING DRAFTS.

To keep the hens warm must be by protecting them from cold winds. This desire interferes with ventilation, and it may well be claimed that to ventilate a poultry-house at night is a problem. There is one point upon which all agree—no drafts on the fowls. When a small opening is made for use as a ventilator, the air rushes in or out with more velocity than when a larger ventilator opening is used. One of the best modes is to have a ventilator one foot wide and ten feet long placed on the south side; in other words, a board twelve inches wide and ten feet long, arranged to hang like a door over an opening, and which can be opened or closed whenever preferred, is an excellent device to use.

THE LATE CHICKS.

At this season there are usually some of the late-hatched chickens that have not grown. They were either stunted by lice in summer or have the roup, which is made plain by their long "crowheads," although they may not appear really unwell. It is better to kill and bury them than to keep them, as no amount of feed will benefit them, and when winter sets in they will break out with the roup and contaminate all the other members of the flock.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Canker.—F. S. Corona, N. Y., writes: "What is canker? Also the cause of a fowl wheezing, legs weak, but comb red, and is laying? What is the cause of eyes being watery?"

REPLY:—Canker is similar to diphtheria, and is usually treated by sprinkling a pinch of chlorate of potash over the roof of the mouth and down the throat twice a day. The wheezing and watery eyes may be caused by drafts of air over the fowls at night.

Overfeeding—Weak Legs.—W. O. L., Powell, Neb., writes: "My fowls have dark combs and are weak, one not being able to walk. I have been feeding shorts. They have a warm place. I gave them condiments as stimulants, once a day, when feeding them."

REPLY:—They have probably been too highly fed, and are out of condition for that reason. Remove the males from the hens, confine the hens for forty-eight hours, with no food, and then feed only an ounce of lean meat once a day to each hen. Avoid red pepper and other stimulants.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BRINE FOR LICE.—I have a way of destroying lice and mites in a hen-house which is a sure remedy, so I will send it to you that others may try it and rejoice. It is simply to spray thoroughly with strong brine; salt is cheap, so use freely. No thorough, energetic housewife will keep bedbugs, and no thoroughgoing farmer or poultry-raiser will keep lousy houses. The work must be well done. When all is cleansed, I sift ashes under the roosts two or three times a week, and keep it well cleaned of the droppings once a week. E. J. S. Leetsville, Mich.

RECORD OF A LANGSHAN PULLET.—I have a very remarkable Langshan pullet. She is in a yard with no other hens, and on October 10th she laid an egg. The next day she failed to lay; the next day, the 12th, she laid again, and kept it up, laying an egg every day, until November 13th, when she failed to lay; November 14th she laid again, and kept laying every day until the 26th, when she laid her last egg and began to set, having laid forty-six eggs in the litter. She was in a pen with an eight-foot fence, and was watched and seen on the nest every day. I have three other pullets of the same breed, younger, and I am interested to know what kind of a record they will make, when I may make a further report. I think this beats the record for a pullet only five months old. Boulder, Col. D. W. K.

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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Soja-bean American Coffee-berry.—J. M. T., Madison, Wis., and others. The soy, or soja, bean, sometimes called American or domestic coffee-berry, is listed in a number of seed catalogues. See our advertising columns.

Horse-radish.—C. C., Walworth, Wis., writes: "Tell me how to raise horse-radish in the beet form, as I have seen it in market, instead of sprangling over the ground in small roots, as ours does."

REPLY:—Plant the small rootlets, or sets, in rich, deep garden soil, and you will get roots of good form. If necessary, subsoil the ground to break up the hardpan. The cause of fingers, or sprangling roots, is shallow soil.

Tanning Skins and Furs.—H. D. C., Farmer, N. Y. A simple process of tanning the skins of mink, coon, etc., is to sprinkle the flesh side, after scraping well, with equal parts of pulverized alum and salt; then fold the flesh side together, rolling it compactly, and let them remain in this condition a week; then open them, sprinkle with bran or sawdust to absorb the moisture, and roll up again. After a day the process is completed by heating, working and rubbing to make them pliable.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. Detmers, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

Note.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Wild Carrots.—J. T. W., New Milford, Conn. It is not known that wild carrots (*Daucus carota*) have any poisonous or injurious effect upon cattle, but where eaten in considerable quantities by milk-cows they may possibly give the milk a peculiar flavor.

Obstruction in a Cow's Teat.—H. S., Pebles, Wis. The only safe way to remove such an obstruction is by forcible milking. If you attempt to do it in any other way, the result, most likely, will be ruinous to the whole quarter. An intelligent veterinarian possibly may succeed.

Garget.—D. B., Unionville, Mo. As soon as the milk of your cow gets bad, which you say happens every few days, milk her most thoroughly once every two hours until the milk is perfectly normal again, and then for at least a few weeks milk her three times a day. All the "lumps" must be milked out.

Probably a Cystic Tumor.—J. W. C., Laynville, Tenn. What you describe seems to be a cystic tumor, which can be removed only by a surgical treatment, including a surgical operation. Therefore, as the latter cannot be performed through the columns of the paper, and as you do not want to be referred to a veterinarian, I cannot help you.

Probably Swine-plague.—R. A. B., Middletown, Mo. Your pigs probably suffer from swine-plague (so-called hog-cholera), at least that is what has to be concluded from your description. If some of them are yet healthy, separate them from the sick ones, give them dry, clean and uninfected quarters, and make the separation in every respect as strict as it possibly can be done, including attendance.

A Lame Colt.—J. B. P., Hampton, Iowa. Your veterinarian either is mistaken or did not make a thorough examination, else he ought to have found the cause of the lameness. If the patella is not dislocated, look for a fracture of a bone or a rupture of muscles on the anterior part of the leg, and do not neglect to subject the hock-joint to a close examination. I do not believe that your colt will ever sufficiently recover to become a useful animal.

Probably an Old Quitter.—T. S., College Springs, Iowa. What you describe appears to be an old quitter, or fistula, of the earilage of the hoof, which has been improperly treated. If the fistula has been brought to healing and no fistulous opening can be found, it will probably be best to leave the degenerated parts alone, but to keep them as clean as you can and to see that the colt is shod in such a way as will as much as possible relieve the injured parts from any weight and pressure. If, however, there is yet an open sore and the fistula has not healed, I advise you to leave the treatment to a competent veterinarian.

Diabetes(?)—E. O. F., Philo, Ohio. You say you think your horse has diabetes, but do not give any reason why you think so, except that he is very poor and suffering from extreme poverty. It seems to me that the animal either suffers from some chronic disease or that the food of the same has been for some time very insufficient either in quantity or in quality, or in both. If your opinion is correct, and it is diabetes that reduced the animal to such great poverty as you describe, it is musty, dusty and spoiled food that constitutes the cause, and removing the cause and substituting good, sound, clean and nutritious food constitute the treatment.

Distemper of Horses.—S. T. J., Forrest, Ia. Distemper of horses (*Adenitis eorum*) is an infectious, somewhat pyemic disease of horses, which, as a rule, affects an animal belonging to the genus equus but once, insofar as the first attack produces a more or less complete immunity

against future infections. It therefore is much more frequently observed in young horses (colts) than in older ones. It is, on the whole, not at all dangerous, provided the affected animals are not neglected, but are properly cared for dietetically and in every other respect. As it has a tendency to produce abscesses, particularly in the submaxillary glands, such abscesses must be promptly opened as soon as they show fluctuation.

Diseased Sheep.—J. W. I., Omer, Mich. Although I hardly think that your sheep suffered and died from a strange or unknown disease, I am sorry to be unable to make a diagnosis from your description. If your state veterinarian knows what ailed them, as you say he does, he ought to tell you. There is certainly no "red tape," neither in Michigan nor in any other state, that forbids a state veterinarian to make a diagnosis or to state what he knows, but a state veterinarian is paid by the state only for official business and is entitled to pay for any unofficial consultation just as well as any other veterinarian. This is probably where the "red tape" comes in. If you had made a post-mortem examination of the sheep that died, I have no doubt the nature of the disease would have been revealed, or at least would have enabled you to give a description upon which a diagnosis could have been based.

A Fibroid Tumor.—D. H., Altoona, Fla. The hard "lump" on your mule's shoulder is probably a fibroid tumor. If it is imbedded in the muscles, the simplest way to remove it is to excise it by means of a surgical operation, performed by a competent veterinarian. If, however, the tumor is connected with the skin, or its seat is very superficial, the following treatment will destroy and remove the tumor, and only leave a comparatively small scar. With a sharp knife make a perpendicular cut, about an inch wide, horizontally into the center of the tumor; this done, take a crystal of sulphate of copper, about three eighths of an inch thick and three fourths of an inch long, push it into the cut to the center of the tumor, and leave it there. If the tumor is not too large, nothing needs to be done but to keep the surroundings of the sore clean, or if the tumor is too large to be destroyed by one application, a second one will be necessary. That the mule must not be worked until a perfect healing has been effected is self-evident.

Pin-worms.—J. R. B., Oranda, Va. The name "pin-worm," it seems, is indiscriminately applied by farmers to any small and pointed worm of horses making its exit with the excrements, consequently in most cases to the one most frequently met with in the large intestines of horses, the mature form of *Sclerostomum equinum* (*Strongylus armatus*). Unfortunately, the most damage done by this worm is caused by its immature form, in which it is principally found in the anterior mesenteric artery, an inaccessible place, while the damage done in its mature form in the large intestines is comparatively insignificant. Its presence in the intestines of a live horse, as a rule, is not discovered until it passes off with the excrements. If it is an object to hasten its departure, it can be done by a few injections of raw linseed-oil into the rectum, but as said before, when this worm has arrived in the rectum, the damage has already been done, and where the damage is done, the worm cannot be reached. Still, the invasion of the worm-brood, which is picked up with stagnant and surface water, can be prevented if horses are not allowed to drink such water, and receive no water but what is unobjectionable; for instance, from a deep well or a good spring.

Periodical Ophthalmia.—R. F. J., Remsen, N. Y. Periodical ophthalmia, "moon-blindness," has two causes, both of which must be acting in order to produce the disease, namely, a predisposing and an exciting cause. The first, the predisposition, is very often transmitted from either sire or dam to the progeny, and therefore makes the disease hereditary in many families of horses, notwithstanding that it does not make its appearance until the exciting cause, which is supposed to consist in an invasion of specific bacteria, comes into action. There are yet other influences which, very likely, either increase the existing predisposition or facilitate the invasion or action of the exciting cause. As such may be mentioned very heavy food, impure stable air, dark stables and sudden changes from darkness to bright light, or vice versa. Periodical ophthalmia does not yield to medicinal treatment. An attack may disappear, and although invariably producing some morbid changes of a permanent character, may leave the eye in an apparently normal condition, because the existing morbid changes are so slight as to escape observation, but other attacks are sure to follow, and as each single attack leaves some permanent morbid changes, the latter after a few attacks will be plain enough to be seen. The periodical attacks, as a rule, continue until the eyesight is lost. The same have nothing to do with the moon.

The Danger of the Corn-stalk Field.—A. M. B., Champion, Neb. Corn-stalk fields are the more dangerous (to cattle) the more leafy the corn-stalks when the cattle are turned in, and the danger, of course, is the greater, the more the cattle will eat at one meal, or within a given time. In order to prevent damage and still to make use of the corn-stalks, it is advisable to compel the cattle to become gradually accustomed to the new food in the following way: First, shut the cattle up in a barn-yard or a corral during the night preceding the day on which they are to go into the corn-stalk field, and feed them all the hay they will eat, so that they may not be in the least hungry. Secondly, do not allow them to go into the field until the dew is off the grass, and then on the first day drive them out of the field in about twenty minutes or half an hour. Next night keep them again in the corral, and before they go into the field feed them the same as before all the hay they are willing to eat; drive them into the field after the dew has disappeared, and leave them there not more than forty or fifty minutes. Proceed in this way every day, only increase the time in the corn-field every day a little until the cattle have become (in about three weeks) thoroughly accustomed to their new diet. As soon, however, as the time in the fields gets beyond two hours, the cattle must be driven to water quite often, at any rate after the first two hours. If the above plan, which causes a little work and watching, is executed, there will be no danger of any losses. I will yet say that the more leafy the corn-stalks the larger the field and the smaller the herd, the slower and the more gradually the time the cattle are left in the field must be increased. I will expressly remark that in the above I only intended to dwell on the practical points and have purposely avoided any theoretical discussion.

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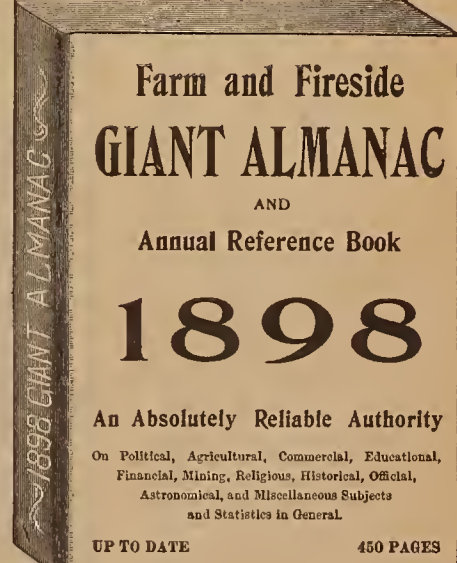
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Whatever is a cruel wrong,
Whatever is unjust,
The honest years that speed along
Will trample in the dust.
In restless youth I railed at fate
With all my puny might,
But now I know if I but wait,
It all will come out right.

Though vice may don the judge's gown
And play the censor's part,
And fact be cowed by falsehood's frown,
And nature ruled by art;
Though labor toils through blinding tears,
And idle wealth is might,
I know the honest, earnest years
Will bring it all out right.

Though poor and loveless creeds may pass
For pure religion's gold:
Though ignorance may rule the mass
While truth meets glances cold—
I know a law complete, sublime,
Controls us with its might,
And in God's own appointed time
It all will come out right.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

THE OWNER OF BENTON FARM

BY MARY WILLIAMS IRWIN.

THE TRAMP.

CHAPTER I.



HE was certainly a very disreputable looking person. His hair and beard were long, his hat a slouch, and his coat and trousers were patched at those places where holes usually first appear. Such a striking combination of dark and gray colored cloth did these garments present, that one did not at first notice that they were clean. And when, presently, this fact became apparent to the gazer's eyes, its recognition would probably be accompanied by the thought that a tramp in clean clothes was a rather startling phenomenon. An additional surprise would come from a glance at his hands and face, for they, also, were clean, and his beard, though long, was well kept and of a beautiful brown in color. Notwithstanding this—perhaps because of the patches and slouch hat—one felt that he was indeed a very disreputable looking person.

The man was walking along one of Ohio's hard, smooth pike roads. On one side there was an osage orange-hedge, on the other a barbed-wire fence. The hedge and fence protected from the highway immense level fields of corn, which was now about four inches high. In the autumn, numbers of men and boys from a distance would come and ask to be allowed to cut the ripened stalks at so much a shock.

The man sauntered leisurely along, casting quick glances from beneath his hat at the various objects of interest that were to be seen on either hand. At his right, away across the corn-fields, the huge fans of a wind-mill showed white against the sky, resting motionless in the quiet air. Near it was a farmhouse, and beyond a grove of trees stretched along the horizon. This was on a road leading from the main one upon which the tramp was walking.

At the man's left hand, on the other side of the hedge, there was almost nothing to be seen but young corn growing from the rich black soil. Just before him, on the road, a large, white house gleamed from among the green houghs of fruit and tall shade-trees. The man looked frequently at the house with something very like covetousness in his eyes. Or, if it was not covetousness, it was, perhaps, longing produced by recollection of other days. He might once have had a home like this when he did not have to wear patched clothes.

The tramp walked on, very slowly now, and his glances from side to side became more prolonged and scrutinizing. Presently he stood still and gazed boldly at the premises. There was a break in the hedge to admit a gate which opened into a lane that led to the barn and stables at the back of the house, and beside the lane, a garden inclosed by a paling-fence. On the other side of the house there was an apple-orchard. Across the road there was another orchard containing peach, pear, plum and quince trees. Beyond these there were corn-fields again.

Just as the man was about to resume his walk, there was a clatter of hoofs along the lane, and a fine black horse dashed impet-

uously up to the gate. His rider, a good-looking young fellow of about twenty years of age, reached down and lifted the long, wooden latch from its hook. He gave the gate a push outward, but the horse shied at the movement and the gate swung back and relatched itself.

"There now, Selim, don't be foolish," the young man said. "Come up to the gate, that's a good fellow."

But the horse did not seem to be disposed to do so. He pranced about and kept backing away from the gate.

"What ails you, Selim? If you don't behave pretty soon, I'll give you something to cut up about."

The tramp stepped forward and opened the gate, holding it until the horse and his rider had passed through.

"Thank you; here's a dime for your trouble," said the young man.

Something gleamed white for a moment in the air before it fell to the ground, the gate shut with a click of its latch, and the horse and his rider were away like a shot.

The bit of silver lay in the dust almost at the tramp's feet. He looked at it a moment, while a smile of mingled bitterness and grief appeared on his face; then he turned on his heel and walked away.

A few minutes afterward the dime was picked up by Norah Bain, who, just behind some currant bushes in the garden, had been a witness of the little scene.

"That's a funny tramp," she thought. "I never saw one before who wouldn't take money if it was offered them. I'll keep this and plague John about it when he comes back."

The following evening John Benton was again coming through the big gate; this time on foot, and he saw the tramp standing in almost the same place where he had stood the previous day.

"Hallo! you here!" he called out. "You must like this road?"

"I do; it's a nice smooth road," answered the tramp.

His voice was pleasant to hear, and John stared at him a moment, his eyes noting curiously every detail of the man's attire.



"THANK YOU; HERE'S A DIME FOR YOUR TROUBLE," SAID THE YOUNG MAN.

"Are you looking for a job?" he asked.

"Well no—not exactly. At least not on a farm," the man answered.

"Maybe you like to chop wood?" said John, a little sarcastically.

"I would prefer that to working on a farm. I always liked to work in wood."

The tramp came up quite close to John. He looked at him almost as curiously as the young man was looking at him. John was thinking of his rejected dime, and it was on the end of his tongue to ask the fellow what he meant by refusing it, but somehow he couldn't quite bring himself to the point of asking the question. In spite of the patched clothes, John felt instinctively that the man was very different from the common run of tramps.

"Where do you live?" he ventured to ask.

"My home is in the West. I stay at Sciotoville—for the present. I have been there two days."

"Perhaps you can get a job there," suggested John.

"I am not after a job. I shall not remain there long."

"Oh, you're just traveling, are you? Consequently, you don't care for jobs—or money, either."

John could not help saying this; the man, with all the evidence of poverty about him, was so independent.

"Well, I'm not rich," he answered, grimly.

"But I know where I can get a job when I want it. It's back in the West where I came from, waiting for me."

"Would you mind telling me what kind of one—that is, what kind of work you can do?" John asked.

"Well, my work is principally in wood. I can do anything, make anything, with saw and chisel, hammer and nails."

"Perhaps, if you'd only do it," thought John, scrutinizing him with a keen eye. "Working in wood—that's nice, clean work," he said aloud. "For my part, I never had much skill with carpenter's tools. My mother says I can't make even a decent box. I made a wood-box for her the other day, and she says it is a disgrace to the kitchen."

John laughed heartily, and the tramp responded with a genial smile.

"Perhaps your talent doesn't lay that way—more in the direction of farming," he suggested.

"That's so, it does," said John. "I always loved farm work. Uncle John used to say I was a born farmer. He said there seemed to be some kind of magic in my hands to make things grow and do well, for everything I touched prospered amazingly. He said, that although I was only a boy, I was far ahead of him, old as he was. It was only because at first I loved the work, and tried to learn all I could about it from books and newspapers, especially newspapers and agricultural journals. Afterward, I studied the technique of the thing at college, and then I put some science into my farming. Uncle John was one of those old-fashioned farmers who always do the same things in the same old way, right along, year after year. Now, it requires some knowledge to carry on farming right, the same as any other business. I got onto that while I was still quite young; and so, when cousin Jim ran away, and years went on and he didn't come back, and Uncle John said I would probably be his heir, I begged him to send me to an agricultural college. He didn't believe much in it at first; but he let me go, anyhow. When I came back and applied my knowledge to my farming, he thought it was wonderful. You see, he let me do as I pleased with his

stranger, and one whom, but a few moments before, he had regarded with considerable suspicion. Be that as it may, they were so interested in each other that they did not perceive a young lady and two children who were coming down the road, until they were quite near to them. They carried pails and books, and at a little past four o'clock, one could easily guess who and what they were.

When John Benton saw them he immediately doffed his hat with a smile and flush of pleasure.

"Good evening, Miss Dalton," he said. "I see you've once more got out of prison."

John laughed joyously, and his face fairly shone with happiness.

The girl paused in her walk, but she did not answer immediately. She looked at the tramp for a moment with frank curiosity; then, turning to John she said, gravely:

"Oh, I do not feel as if I have been in prison at all. I like to teach and I like my pupils."

Then her eyes returned to the tramp and her curious gaze softened at once into one of pity and compassion. The man seemed to feel her look and to be uneasy under it. For the first time he showed signs of shame at his appearance. He looked down at his patched clothes, and shifted one foot before the other as if to try to hide the hole in the toe of his shoe. His face slowly turned red, and he thrust his hands nervously into his pockets. Seeing these signs of embarrassment, she smiled slightly as she replied to John's question as to whether she was going to the picnic next Saturday.

"Yes. Are you going, Mr. Benton?"

"Yes, and—" John walked toward her. "I should be glad to take you over in my buggy, Miss Dalton."

"Thank you. I shall be pleased to go with you, Mr. Benton."

Miss Dalton walked on. The children pattered along beside her, casting backward glances, from time to time, at the man in the patched clothes and queer hat.

With his face flaming John turned to speak to the tramp; but that individual was walking rapidly away. John slowly followed until he reached the gate in front of the

large white farmhouse. He opened it, crossed the wide lawn, or "yard," and entered the front door. He went through the hall to the kitchen where his mother and Norah Bain were cooking the evening meal. He "hung his hat on the floor," as he would have said, and sat down near the open door.

"Well, Norah," he said, "I've been having quite a chat with your tramp."

"What! the one we saw last night?" she asked, suspending the operation of peeling the potato she held in her hand.

"The same."

"Well, I don't know why you call 'im my tramp," said Norah, resuming her work on the potato.

"Why, you thought him a fine fellow, didn't you?"

"That's more'n he seemed to think of you. He wouldn't take your ten cents, anyhow," said Norah, giggling.

"He's certainly an extraordinary tramp," said John.

"Did you ask him why he didn't take the money?"

"No, indeed," said John, laughing. "He's a very independent fellow. Says he's got a job whenever he's ready for it. I declare, I don't know what to think of him. One minute I'm ready to think

he's an honest fellow, the next I have all sorts of suspicions of him."

"Did he tell you anything about himself," asked Mrs. Benton.

"He said he was from the West, and that he should not stay long at Sciotoville. Come to think of it, he did not say much about himself, but I told him nearly everything about myself. I expect I ought not to have done it," said John, musingly.

"I think it would be well enough for you to use a little discretion in talking to strangers," said Mrs. Benton. "But I've told you that so often I suppose it's never any use telling you again."

"No, I suppose not, mother."

"But it's because you're so free and open in all you say, that everybody likes you," said Mrs. Benton, smiling fondly at him.

"Do you think so? Does everybody like me?"

"You have many friends, John."

"I hope so."

John was used to hearing such compliments from his mother; but they did not spoil him, for he thought that it was according to nature that her fondness for him should cause her to be partial to him.

Two months passed by. The tramp had not again been seen by either John or Norah, and they had almost forgotten him.

One day as John was flying over the pike in his cart he had Sellum, he came upon a

huckster's wagon at a standstill in the middle of the road. One of the horses attached to it was lying down in its harness, and the driver was standing by it with his hands in his pockets, as if he knew not what to do.

"Hallo!" said John, reining up. "What's the matter there?"

"My horse is give out, I guess," the man answered. "He was not well this mornin' when I started, but I thought mehhe he'd git better after he was on the road awhile. So I took him out, and he did seem better, but the trip's heen too much fer him. It's fifteen miles from where I live to Sciotoville."

"Far enough for a well horse to travel with the load you've got," said John.

"Yes, I know it is," admitted the man. "But I wanted my butter and eggs off my hands, and I needed several things in my grocery, and I was a'most compelled to git to Sciotoville somehow. Mehhe he'll be able to go on after he rests awhile. If he can't, I'll have to put up some place till mornin'."

"I'll take a look at him," said John. "I may be able to do something for him."

He drove Selim up beside the fence and hitched him there. He took from beneath the seat of the cart a small kit of instruments and medicines, such as are used in veterinary surgery. His studies at the agricultural college had put him in possession of considerable knowledge concerning the ailments of farm and domestic animals, and he approached the sick horse and looked at him with quite a professional eye. Then he opened his kit, and taking a bottle from within it, he, with the aid of a horn and some water brought by the teamster from a neighboring creek, proceeded to administer a dose of medicine to the poor creature.

After about half an hour's labor the animal seemed to be considerably revived. He got upon his feet and was quite "peart," his owner said. He believed "the critter" would now be able to travel the remainder of the distance which was about twelve miles. If, however, the horse showed signs of flagging, he would stop with a friend of his a few miles farther on, and remain all night.

John heartily approved of this plan and as the man mounted to his seat and started his horses forward, he turned to put his kit in its receptacle under the seat of the cart. But he found his way blocked by a very handsome, stylish-looking horse and buggy which had at that moment come up. The gentleman seated within the buggy said pleasantly,

"Good afternoon, Mr. Benton."

The voice sounded familiar, but John, with his first stare of surprise thought he had never seen the man before.

"Good afternoon, sir," he answered, standing still with his kit in his hand, and staring with all his might.

"The horse was pretty sick, wasn't he?" said the gentleman, nodding toward the retreating team. "I saw him in town before his owner started out, and I thought by the looks of him that he would not be able to go far without help. What was wrong with him?"

"Indigestion," answered John.

"You are something of a vet, I perceive," said the gentleman. He seemed disposed to have a chat with John, perhaps with a view to drawing him out.

"Something of a vet—yes," repeated John. "But—why—how—" he broke off. "Seems to me I've seen you before."

"You have, though under somewhat different circumstances," answered the other, smiling. "And I am happy to be able, at last, to introduce myself to you."

He took a card from his vest-pocket and handed it to John, who glanced at it and read:

JAMES CROLY,

Cabinet Maker and Furniture Dealer,
Corner Main and Union Streets,
SCIOTOVILLE, OHIO.

It was evident from the expression on John's face, that he was very much puzzled. "I don't understand," he said, looking up at the other.

Mr. Croly, as if enjoying John's bewilderment, smiled and stroked his neat whiskers. "You see I've got a job," he said.

"Ah!" said John. "I thought I ought to know you. But I had no idea you were still about. Seems to me you said you were going back West."

"I did mean to do so when I last spoke to you. But something happened that same evening, and I changed my mind. I'm doing a good business and I shall stay in Sciotoville."

"And so you were not a tramp at all. Merely masquerading?" said John.

"I admit that I was. That was why I wouldn't take your ten cents."

"I was very rude to you," said John. "But what induced you to do it?"

"Oh—well—I—suppose I wanted to know how it felt to be a tramp."

Mr. Croly spoke hesitatingly, as if dallying with the true answer to John's question.

"And so you're in business?" said John, looking again at the card.

"Yes. Give me a call some day," responded Mr. Croly, heartily. "But I must be moving along. Good day!"

He whistled to his horse and went on his way, leaving John in a brown study, as he prepared to continue his drive.

"What kind of a man is that, anyhow?" he muttered. "He looks honest, and his voice rings true. But why should he have made his first appearance here as a tramp? I'm afraid there's something wrong there, gentlemen, I'm afraid there is."

[To be continued.]

THE EYRIE'S BURGLAR.

BY ANNIE HAMILTON DONXELL.



ou hold it this way, and you pull the trig—"

"Jerome Currier, put that gun down this instant!" Achsa said, sternly. Quavers of keen anxiety cropped out between the words. She edged hastily toward the door. Shirley edged after her.

"Oh—ah—certainly, ladies, certainly," Jerome murmured, meekly. "I only thought you might like a few lessons—in case," he added, darkly.

"In case," Achsa remarked, loftily, "why, we shall know how to do it fast enough, sir. It'll come to us."

"Yes, like swimming, you know," appended Shirley, from behind the door. "That comes to folks, in shipwrecks and—things. You read about it times enough—they just wriggle around in the water and first thing you know they're swimming. They're inspired."

"Just as we should be inspired to shoot off that—Jerome, put it down!—in case, you know," chimed in Achsa, promptly.

"But you might point the wrong end at him and shoot yourselves, or make some trifling mistake like that," insisted Jerome, with mild persistence. "That would make it embarrassing for the burglar, poor chap! He'd feel sort of responsible, if he were—ah—the right kind of a burglar—"

"Jerome Currier, you haven't put it down!"

The gun descended to the floor with a clank that sent the girls' heads promptly out of sight. Jerome's wheezy chuckle followed in their wake.

Jerome Currier's hosom enemy, as he grimly called his asthma, had hunted him down again. There was always great danger of it when he ventured rashly within salt-water reach. All the previous night he had sat bolt upright in bed, and tried to breathe. Achsa's name and Jerome's asthma were heirlooms, and though Achsa maintained there wasn't much to choose between them, Jerome—poor fellow—knew better.

"Call me Hilary, Jeroboam, Methusalem—anything you like," he said, "if you'll only give me a fair chance to breathe when I feel like it."

So Jerome was for getting back to the city again at once. The girls would not even let him wait another day, till Mr. and Mrs. Currier came down.

"You poor boy, you!" Achsa had crooned over him. "You've got to get on to dry land and find your breath. And if you dare to assert that your Cousin Shirley and your indomitable sister Achsa"—Achsa straightened her small form, her little feet a-tiptoe under her petticoats—"can't take care of themselves for one night—shades of grandmother Achsa! Shades of great-grandmother Achsa! Shades of great-great! Jerome Currier, don't you dare to assert! Run along like a dear boy, and don't be a goose."

"No, I won't—couldn't be, you know, for the life of me," Jerome had wheezed, and therewith submitted to having his bagpacked. He was really too much exhausted by his night's struggle to make vigorous resistance. Besides, he reasoned languidly, the girls were as safe as safe could be in "The Eyrie," with the sturdy Atlantic patrolling before their door.

"Leave us your gun, you know," Shirley said, valiantly. "In case of burglars!"

"Y—yes, leave us your gun," quavered Achsa, not to be outdone in courage. "Then we can feel perfectly easy in our minds."

"And the burglar can feel easy in his mind," muttered Jerome.

But the girls would take no lessons in shooting. Jerome put back the gun into its place in the closet, and went away on the morning boat. Achsa and Shirley from "The Eyrie's" height waved their handkerchiefs to him as long as they could see the steamer's lazy thread of smoke against the sky.

"There!" ejaculated Achsa, dropping her arm, "he's on the way toward dry land, and he hasn't got to choke and wheeze and gasp another night, dear boy!"

"And we're up here on a rock in the Atlantic ocean, all by our 'ains,'" murmured Shirley, a little dolefully. "Doesn't it give you the creeps—just one or two little ones down the spine of your back?"

"Creeps? Shirley Penn! Really, you astonish me, my dear. The spine of my back is as calm as—as yonder azure sea."

"Which isn't calm at all—got white night-caps all over it," interrupted Shirley, in triumph.

"Well, I won't wear my night-caps on my spinal column," laughed Achsa, catching Shirley for a twirl down the long piazza.

"The Eyrie" was the Currier's beautiful summer home on the New England coast. "The Eyrie's" especial piece of coast was part of a newly discovered resort of but two or three years' growth. The cottages and more

pretentious villas were rather widely scattered along the rugged shore, and none of them approached within "speaking distance," as Achsa said, of "The Eyrie." That, together with the tumult and rough friendliness of the sea, made the place a little lonely for two girls. But then, Mr. and Mrs. Currier were coming at once—on the following day. The girls had run down with Jerome a day or two ahead to open the house for them.

"There isn't anybody here yet to be burgled, my dear," said Achsa, cheerfully, though a little out of breath with her dance. "Nary a soul to make it worth while. Besides, there never was a burglar down here but once, and he only burgled a Neufchatel cheese and a pie or so."

Shirley faced about. "Achsa Currier," she said, sternly, "what difference does it make whether he hurgles a Neufchatel cheese or a grand piano, as long as he breaks and enters? I'm sure I wouldn't mind much if he'd agree to give us a few hours' start and let us carry the things—"

"Cheeses and pianos, and things," murmured Achsa.

"—Out to him. It's having him padding around softly, picking locks and making your blood run cold, that I object to most. And a dark lantern—ugh!"

"Well, let him pad and pick!" cried Achsa, valiantly. "Let him! Haven't we the 'Defender'?"

She ran into the hall and threw open the closet door with a flourish. Both girls peered in cautiously at the gun slanted against the wall. A shaft of sunlight set its silver trimmings glittering.

"It looks worse than a burglar," whispered Achsa.

"Doesn't it?" chattered Shirley. "You wouldn't care to be on speaking terms with the 'Defender,' would you, now?"

"Achsa shut the door carefully, lest the jar might set off the gun," she explained. Then she locked the door and they went off with a sigh of relief to the day's spending. A bath in the sea, a run on the rocks and a long, delicious lounge on the wide, shaded veranda, filled up many of the hours pleasantly enough, and it was not until dusk that the girls began to feel really lonely, and then they promptly went to bed—to "get over it quicker."

"We'll lock up and go to bed and tell stories," suggested Shirley.

"Yes—ghost stories."

"If you dare, Achsa Currier. We must think up all the pokey, gentle stories about old maids that put up rose-leaves and salt, and waited for their long-lost lovers to come—"

"With dark-lanterns in the dead o' night—" Shirley's laugh joined Achsa's, quavering with it a little, on the high notes.

They made a long, careful round of the house, inspecting and reinspecting window locks and bars and buttons.

On the way back, Achsa unlocked the closet-door in the hall.

"We must carry the 'Defender' up-stairs," she said, firmly, "you must take one end and I the other, Shirley."

"Oh, certainly, my dear—if you'll give me my choice of ends," agreed Shirley, with promptness.

"N—no. Then I'll drag it up—but that wouldn't do. Wait, let me think!"

"I have it," cried Shirley. "Not the gun, but an inspiration. We'll lay it in the croquet-box and carry that up!"

"Inspired soul! And we'll line the box with my shawl to prevent jars. Come on!"

The displaced mallets and balls clattered out on the floor, and the balls sped away in all directions. The wires clinked and rang uncannily. Between them they carried up the coffined "Defender," and slid him softly under the bed. It was several hours before they went to sleep.

"What—on—earth!" cried Shirley, wildly. She sat up in bed and rubbed her eyes open.

"Sh! Sh!" whispered Achsa.

"Do whisper. He's come. He's here!"

"Who? The burg—"

"Yes, get up quick! He's down in the hall. We've got to shoot him, if it kills us."

"If it kills him," giggled poor Shirley, hysterically.

Achsa, in her dainty ribboused nightgown, stood straight and brave, in front of Shirley. She had the "Defender" in her hands. Her small, fair face was set with grim determination.

"Don't you dare to have any creeps now, Shirley Penn!" she commanded, softly.

"N—no," quavered Shirley. "Of c—course not. I'm as c—cool as a c—clam."

"Then we're ready. We'll go out in the upper hall and peek first—to—to get a good aim, you know."

But Shirley was peeking out of the window. "Oh!" she breathed, "he came on a wheel! See, there it is leaning up against the steps. I didn't know they traveled around on bicycles—no, I never!"

"Come!" whispered Achsa, from the door, "never mind if he came in a balloon."

They crept on bare, light toes out into the hall, and to the head of the stairs. A tiny glimmer of light shone below. By it they could just discern a dark body, quite still and motionless.

"Oh, my goodness, he's lying on the lounge!" Shirley murmured, "I call that cool!"

Achsa was directing the "Defender" down into the gloom. There was a minute's portentious hush and then a wlerd report. The "Defender" fell and went clattering down-stairs with a fresh bump at every stair. Achsa uttered a faint scream.

"Oh, Shirley," she cried, clinging to her cousin's slight figure. "Oh, I've killed him! I've killed him! Now they'll hang me!"

"Hush, do for mercy's sake, dear! Let's go down and see. I don't believe he's dead any more than I am. You've just wounded him."

They pattered softly down after the "Defender." On the half-way landing, Achsa stopped again.

"Yes, I have, too," she walled, softly. "He hasn't stirred. I hit him in his heart—that's where I aimed."

A queer whistling sound came up very faintly from the hall, but it was unnoticed by the excited girls. Still, the ghostly figure down there did not move.

"I've killed him, and they'll hang me, Shirley Penn! And it will be the death of mother if they hang me!"

"It'll be the death of you, poor dear!" groaned Shirley.

The whistling sounded again from beneath them, in the dark.

The girls crept on down, clinging to each other. They stumbled over the "Defender," untrifled. The glimmer of light resolved itself into a faint glare from a small lantern.

"His dark-lantern," shuddered Achsa, pointing to it.

"Looks like a bicycle-lamp," Shirley murmured. "I suppose burglars that go around on wheels use 'em for that and hurgling, too. Now, what you going to do, Achsa Currier?"

"I'm going up to him, and you're going, too," whispered Achsa's tremulous voice, struggling to be firm. "We're going to—to bring him to if we can—but he's dead, I know—hark!"

A distinct wheeze came from the burglar's direction. Another and still another. Achsa started forward.

"Why, he isn't!" she cried, jubilantly. "He's alive, and he's got the asthma, poor man! Don't you hear him wheezing! Oh, isn't it beautiful! Go right up-stairs into my room, Shirley, and get that bottle of asthma medicine of Jerome's on the bureau—hurry!"

"Oh! but I should think you'd better look after his wound first!" ventured Shirley, with a feeble little giggle of nervousness.

"Hurry, Shirley, get that bottle! Don't you suppose he's got to breathe, anyhow, whether he's dead or not?"

The little lamp's light had been turned away from the dark figure on the sofa. Now Achsa snatched it up and swung it over the burglar.

"Jerome!" she screamed.

"Jerome!"

"Oh—ah—ugh!" wheezed the burglar. "I'm killed—get the bottle! Get the bottle! Oh, get the bottle!"

"Oh, Jerome, have I killed you? Dear, precious Jerome, are you dead?" cried Achsa, in an agony.

"Get—the—bottle," feebly muttered Jerome.

"Where did it hit you? Oh, what have I done to my brother? We thought you were a burglar, and I've shot you with that dreadful gun! Where—where is the bullet, dear?"

Her soft fingers were feeling gently for his heart.

"It's—somewhere—in—the—back—yard, I think," groaned Jerome, growing feeble. "I heard it going out there to laugh—gentlemanly bullet!"

"Jerome Currier, didn't I hit you at all?" exclaimed Achsa, and Jerome asserted afterward that there was disgust in her voice. "Not anywhere?"

"It—it went to my heart just after you fired," murmured Jerome, "when my poor gun came downstairs on a dead run."

He sat up and looked at the girls with laughing, wicked eyes. "No, no," he said, warding off their reproaches. "I didn't go to scare you poor little things. I guess not! Didn't I go ashore at Eel Landing and pedal way over here on the double-quick on purpose to protect you? Didn't my conscience mis-give me about leaving you alone, and didn't I take my life in my hands and come back?"

He held his hand tragically over his heart, and gazed at Achsa.

"Shirley," he added, suddenly, "where's that bottle?"

"Bottle!" cried Achsa, with fine scorn.

"Do you think we're going to cure your asthma, after this?"

"You needn't mind," said Jerome, meekly, "it's all cured. You scared it into the next county with that dreadful gun."

And it was six months or more before he confessed that there hadn't been a single bullet in the "Defender's" pockets that memorable night when the burglar came to "The Eyrie."

"Peerless Atlas is a great seller," writes C. C. Snyder, Charleston, Illinois. "The very valuable new map of Alaska and the Klondike just added to it, also the descriptive matter accompanying same, are great helps. WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION one year (or FARM AND FIRESIDE and Peerless Atlas, all for one dollar, is a bargain that people take hold of quickly."

ANNEXATION.

Annexation has been our historic policy. The Louisiana purchase from France in 1803 added to our original domain a stupendous empire of about four and a half times the extent of the state of Texas. Sixteen years later the Florida purchase from Spain brought in about 35,000,000 acres; and the admission of Texas in 1845 nearly five times as much good solid earth. The Mexican treaty of 1848 and the Gadsden purchase from Mexico doubled the Texan addition, so that in round numbers we added to our original holding, between 1803 and 1851, over a billion acres. Sixteen years after that, by the foresight of Seward, we gained Alaska, thus increasing the amount of our annexations to 1,500,000,000 acres. We have now rested in our acquisitiveness for thirty years, the longest rest in our history, and we are face to face with the demand of Hawaii for annexation and the near desirability, by reason of our imperative interests, of taking Cuba, when she shall become a republic, under the wide, beneficent wing of our protectorate, until such time annexation is demanded by the Cuban people. These historical citations have been made in order to substantiate the fact of general American sentiment for the expansion of American empire.—Richard Knight, in the Illustrated American.

INDIAN MAIDEN RIDES A WHEEL, PLAYS THE PIANO AND SELLS TRINKETS.

Lucy Nicolai, daughter of the late Joseph Nicolai, of the Penobscot tribe, is an accomplished bicycle-rider. She is just coming into her teens, and is a young miss of marked beauty, and wherever she goes with baskets or Indian exhibits many a young American who looks upon the Indian maiden feels that the laud of the Penobscots must "be the land of handsome women." Just now Lucy is receiving private instructions, that she may enter the Oldtown High school. Her instructor tells me that she is bright in her studies and that mathematics is her forte. Lucy is perhaps the most proficient piano-player on the island, being the owner of an instrument. She also sings pleasingly. But the skill of the tribe is not forgotten by this young member, for she can make baskets, etc., as well as some of the older ones. The mother of Lucy is one of the finest-looking members of the tribe, a woman respected by all who know her.—Lewistown (Me.) Journal.

A GOOD CHEAP FARM WAGON.



In order to introduce their low metal wheels with wide tires, the Empire Mfg. Co., Quincy, Ill., have placed upon the market a farmer's handy wagon, sold at the low price of \$19.95. The wagon is only 25 inches high, fitted with 24 and 30-inch wheels, with 4-inch tires, either straight or staggered spokes. This wagon is made of best material throughout, and fully guaranteed for one year. Catalogue giving full description will be mailed upon application to the manufacturers, who also furnish metal wheels at low prices, made any size and width of tire to fit any axle.

ELIMINATING THE NEGRO VOTE IN THE SOUTH.

Some idea of the sweeping effect that the new registration law has had in eliminating the negro vote can be had from the reports that have reached the city from a few of the country parishes. In the parish of Plaquemine, which formerly had a negro registration of 2,500, only five blacks have so far registered. In the parish of West Baton Rouge five negroes are said to have presented themselves up to last week for registration, but none were competent, and in consequence all were refused. Unless things have changed in the last few days there is not a negro on the registration rolls in West Baton Rouge.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

FIVE DROPS

Is the name of a simple but effective remedy for rheumatism, neuralgia, asthma and kindred ailments. The trade mark is self-explanatory. FIVE DROPS make a dose. The effect is magical. In days gone by other alleged cures have been marketed with the promise to take effect in thirty days or more. FIVE DROPS begins to cure at once. Immediate relief is felt. The manufacturers of FIVE DROPS have thousands of testimonials from reliable people, copies of many of them gladly sent upon application. In order to more effectively advertise its merits the company will, for the next thirty days, send out 100,000 of their sample bottles of this positive cure for 25 cents a bottle by mail, prepaid. Large bottles, 300 doses, \$1 (for thirty days 3 bottles \$2.50). Those suffering should write to the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Company, 167-169 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill., and take advantage of this generous offer. We know this company and can assure our readers that all orders will be promptly filled.

MASTERFUL MRS. SLIMS.

The man who was doing the talking has endured a good many hard knocks while making a very successful way through the world, and, like most persons who have survived such experience, has very decided opinions of his own.

"I've always regarded woman as the weaker vessel," he said, "but want to say right here that Mrs. Slims is a very remarkable person. I don't believe she could tell a Percheron from a Kentucky thoroughbred, yet I saw her start a halyk horse the other day, after twenty men and boys had been heating, kicking and cursing the poor brute for half an hour. The persuasion she used was a couple of lumps of sugar and a few kind words.

"But it was yesterday that she convinced me of her great knowledge. You can gage her knowledge of dogs from the fact that she paid \$5 for a long-haired mongrel puppy under the impression that she was buying an aristocratic pug. Slims has a hull terrier that's a professional fighter, and Torton, who lives next door, owns a big St. Bernard. The two dogs began an argument through the fence, and the larger one simplified matters by crashing through a board into Slim's yard. The whole neighborhood was soon engaged in an effort to part them. Strong hands tugged at tails, legs and ears. Clubs were freely used, water was dashed upon the belligerents, and the stern orders for them to 'break away' could be heard blocks off. When Mrs. Slims appeared on the scene she seemed to grasp the situation in one terrified glance. She flew into the house, dashed out again, and inside of a minute had the savage fighters slinking away from each other."

"How did she do it?"

"Bottle of ammonia. Surest thing on earth to break up a dog-fight, and it's original with her. Why, those two beasts quit like pet sheep, and the joke of it is that each dog thinks the other administered the awful dose. They never see each other now that they do not curl up their nose as though sniffing ammonia, and trot briskly in opposite direction."—Detroit Free Press.

HAD THE RIGHT TO CHANGE HIS MIND.

No man is better known or more generally beloved in the city in which he lives than Professor Adam Hendershott. His conversation is quite devoid of bitterness. Only once was he ever known to say anything indicating even the slightest trace of ill-temper. Traveling townward on a suburban trolley-line to call upon a friend, he asked the conductor to transfer him to the city street-cars at a certain point.

Soon afterward the car stopped, and he was surprised to see outside the very friend he was seeking. He started to leave the car, but the conductor accosted him.

"You can't change for your car here," he said, brusquely. "Go back!"

The professor passed him, taking no notice. "Can't change cars here, I tell you," snapped the conductor again.

Professor Hendershott, deep in conversation with his friend, merely waved his hand to signify that the car might go on without him.

"Here, you old jay!" cried the man with the brass buttons, angrily, "don't I tell you that you can't change cars at this station?"

The good old professor answered with severity: "But I can change my mind at this station, can't I?"—Pittsburg Dispatch.

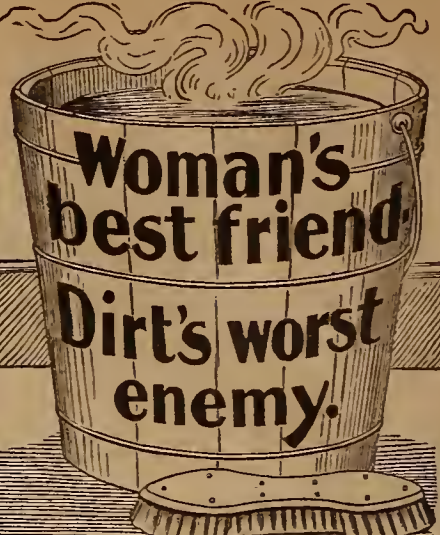
WHERE GREAT MEN ARE BORN.

But you say our young people born in the country are frequently unwilling to remain there, and instead, are constantly going up by the thousands to grapple with the unknown dangers and perils, with hard and turbulent life of our great cities. Very true; but don't you know that these same young people are rather more successful than any other class in the world in their struggle with this same hard and turbulent life? Go into the great business houses, churches or offices of any of our great cities and ask the merchant princes, the celebrated divines, the great editors, artists and professional men whom you find there where they were born and reared, and they will almost invariably tell you away off somewhere in some quiet and peaceful, though perhaps obscure and unassuming, country village or farm.

That the great men of the cities, of the nation, of the world, almost without exception, have been born and bred in the country is undisputed. Look through the history of the world for universally accepted great men born and reared in cities, and you will look in vain. Out in the balmy air and under the blue skies of the wide country, where are birds and flowers, emblems of purity, joyousness and truth, there great men are born and nurtured, and there alone.—John T. Kenney, in Donahoe's.

TOOTHsome.

A Chicago man has succeeded in making artificial milk. This, with the rubber oyster, ought to start a stew in the church supper line this winter.—Richmond Times.



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"AUTUMN LEAVES."

FROM A PAINTING
BY W. GRANVILLE SMITH.



THE brilliancy of the autumnal foliage lasts but a short season at most; when the biting frost has completed its work, the trees shed their dead and lustreless leaves and wait for nature to clothe them anew.

So with our garments; unless protected they must be discarded at the end of the season, not worn out, but ruined by the biting alkalies of common soaps and soap powders.

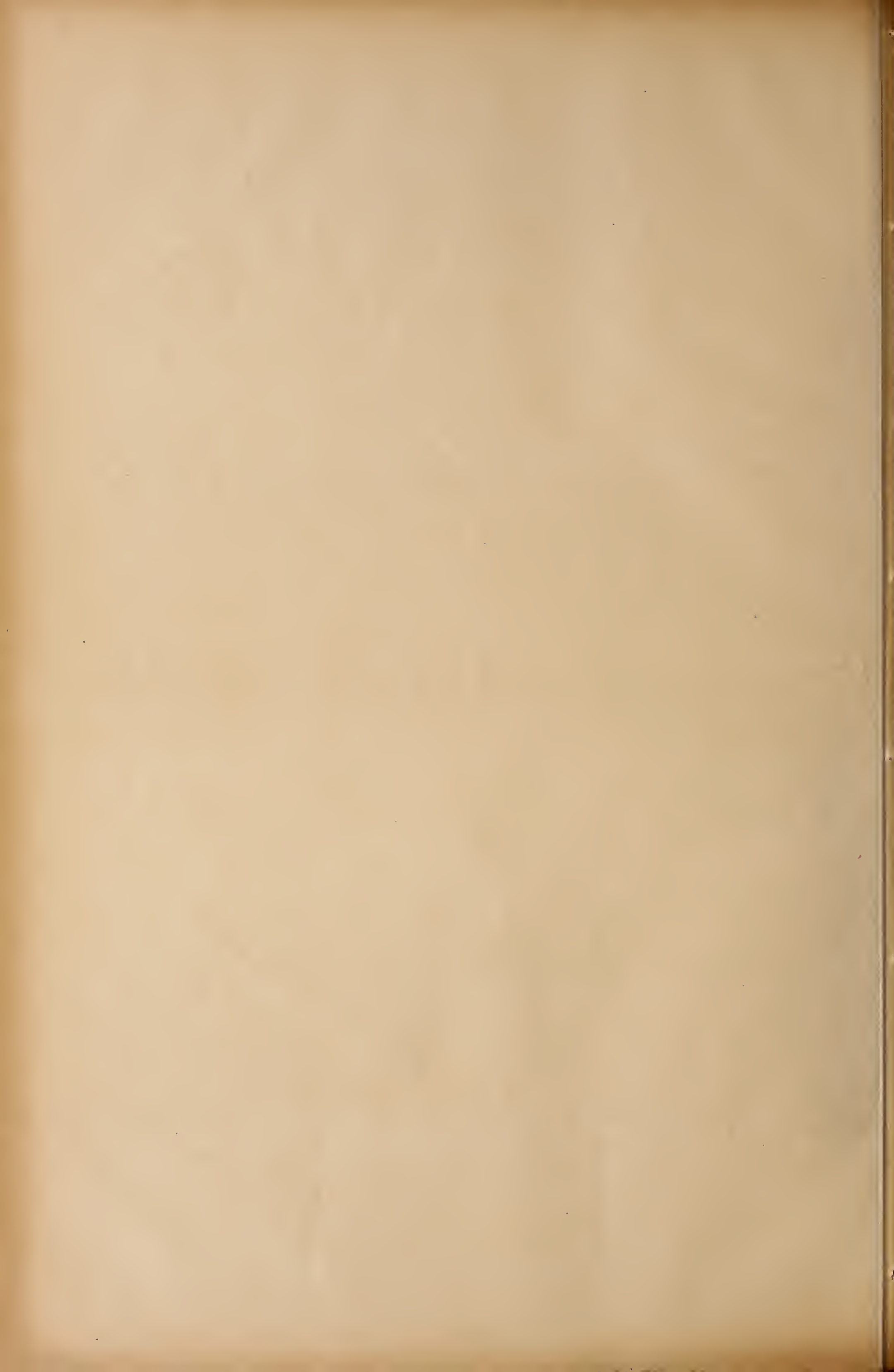
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Our Household.

ALWAYS SOME ONE BELOW.

On the lowest round of the ladder
I firmly planted my feet,
And looked up in the dim, vast distance
That made my future so sweet.

I climbed till my vision grew weary,
I climbed till my brain was on fire,
I planted each footstep with wisdom,
Yet I never seemed to get higher.

For this round was glazed with indifference
And that one was glazed with scorn,
And when I grasped firmly another
I found under velvet a thorn.

Till my brain grew weary of planning,
And my heart strength began to fail,
And the flush of the morning's excitement
Ere evening commenced to pale.

But just as my hands were unclasping
Their hold on the last-gained ground,
When my hopes, coming back from the future,
Were sinking again in the ground.

One who had climbed near the summit
Reached backward a helping hand,
And, refreshed, encouraged and strengthened,
I took once again my stand.

And I wish—oh, I wish—that the climbers
Would never forget as they go
That, though weary may seem their climbing,
There is always some one below.
—Ella Higginson, in *Journal of Education*.

HOME TOPICS.

KITCHEN HINTS.—I lately learned a new wrinkle about frying potatoes, and that is to dip the slices in milk before frying them. This will make them brown beautifully. To brown a baked custard or pumpkin pie, sift a little powdered sugar lightly over the top as soon as the surface is cooked enough to bear it up.

MINT SAUCE.—To three tablespoonfuls of finely chopped spearmint add two tablespoonfuls of granulated sugar; stir it well together, and let it stand twenty-five minutes or more, then add a teaspoonful of hot vinegar and set it where it will keep hot ten minutes before serving. Serve mint sauce with boiled or roasted lamb or mutton.

WASHING CALICOES.—In a letter which I received a short time ago, the writer said: "Mary says tell Maida to put a tablespoonful of epsom salts in the starch for calico clothes." I tried it, and it makes them look new.

A HANDY SCRAP-BOOK.—I can hardly remember when I did not have a scrap-

book. A few years ago one who is always looking out for my comfort and happiness brought home a portfolio scrap-book. It consists of thirty large, square, stout envelopes bound into a book, each numbered and a blank index in the front of the book. Now I read with a pair of scissors, a pencil and paper at hand, and as soon as I see any suggestion that I want to keep I either clip it out, copy, or at least make a note of where it can be found, and put all notes or clippings in their proper envelope in the portfolio, which is indexed something as follows: "Home, kitchen, dining-room, chamber, work-basket, fancy-work, children, remedies, recipes, etc., with one for miscellany." After any recipe or suggestion has been tried and found valuable, it is pasted into a scrap-book.

LETTERS.—When a family has lived happily together for years under the old roof-tree, it is sad to see them scattering to distant homes as they grow up to years of maturity. These separations are many times unavoidable, but a still sadder thing too often follows separation. In the cares and interests which spring up about the new homes, letters grow more and more unfrequent, until finally brothers and sisters will sometimes entirely lose sight of each other, and years will pass without their either meeting or even writing a word to each other. This is not right. The ties of kindred are much too sacred to be thus lightly severed. It takes such a little while to write a letter, and the expense is so trifling, that there can hardly be an excuse for neglect. Especially should the children who have gone out from the old home write often to their parents, left in a lonely home. If they knew how many heartaches neglect in this respect causes to loving hearts they would not be so thoughtless. If they knew of the joy that a letter brings to the lonely ones in the old home, and could see how its every word is read and re-read, and talked over by the fireside, they would not be so sparing of their messages of love.

MAIDA McL.

IN REGARD TO POLITE LYING.

"Are you tired?" Mrs. Goodenough inquires kindly of the guest she is trying to entertain.

"Oh, dear, no! I am not tired at all," and with this polite lie, told purely out of courtesy, Mrs. Swansdown tries to look radiant and smiling when her whole body is aching with weariness and she is longing to be at home and in bed.

"I am sorry, but I have already engaged a maid," says the lady of the house, dismissing the shrinking, wretched clad girl at her door.

"You will think I have been telling a dreadful lie," Mrs. Puffsleeves says, with a sigh, as she returns to her friend in the drawing-room. "I have not as yet engaged a maid, but I could not tell that poor little thing I did not like her looks."

"How do you like my hat, Grace?" Mary says, turning anxiously to her friend for advice and criticism. "Sister Ida says it is not becoming."

Grace is at heart a truthful girl; she hates even the appearance of a lie, but she is afraid she will hurt her friend if she gives her honest opinion, and almost before she knows it, she is saying:

"It is very becoming to you, Mary." The next moment Grace has repented her words, and she goes home with a feeling of shame to think she has yielded to this miserable little temptation to tell a lie.

Temptations of this kind beset us at every step, when custom, politeness or real kindness of heart makes it so easy to tell an agreeable lie; so hard to speak the unwelcome truth. Not long since, an evangelist, addressing a large audience, asked any man or woman who had never in their lives told a lie to rise. The audience remained conspicuously seated. As they looked into their hearts not one could rise before that searching question.

How can we overcome this besetting weakness. Certainly not by trusting to the impulse of the moment which has betrayed us so often, but by cultivating such deep principles of honor and honesty that it will be impossible to speak what is not true, even when we speak quickly. Then tell the truth every day. Practice makes people perfect in truth-telling as in other things.

We should try to cultivate in ourselves and in others a sincere love of the truth. Mendacity would not be so prevalent in society as it is to-day, if we did not prefer

listening to agreeable flattering lies rather than to plain, homely truths. The poet says, naively, that when a lover begins to tell his lady the truth he is no longer in love with her. While we cherish this feeling that those who tell us the most lies love us the best, our friends and acquaintances will keep on lying.

Miss Crabtree always speaks the truth, but she does it with a sourness which sets one's teeth on edge, with a sharpness which cuts like an east wind. People are not in the least obliged to her and always avoid her society. Kitty Twinkleton, who

to have so many different kinds of fancy-work with us, and then we are not at the end of it. Next time let's all bring our linen pieces and work on them."

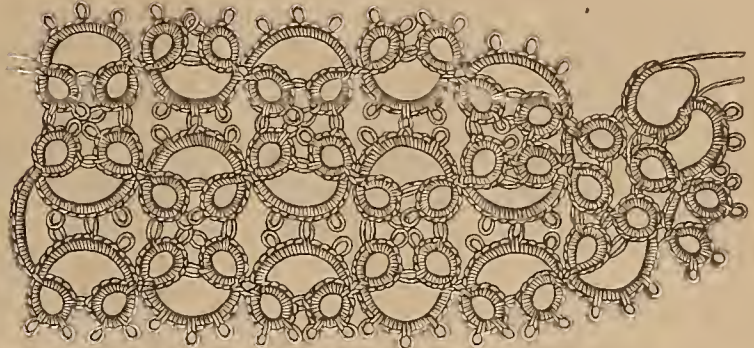
And then there was a lull.

C. I.

FINE SHIRTS.

Fine shirts may be successfully laundered at home after a little patient determination and experience.

The linen must be scrupulously clean, of course. The starch must not be too thick, must be well cooked and thoroughly rubbed



draws every one to her with the sweetest and graciousness of a May morning, also speaks the truth, but in such a different way. She says she learned it from her mother, and her mother had the recipe from the best book in the world. When pressed to tell more about it, Kitty said that it was her mother's custom to gather her little family around her fireside every evening and read to them from this good book. They were told that they were not to dwell on the faults of their neighbors, but whatever things were true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report they were to speak of these things. Then in heart to heart talks, without fear of reproach or resentment or criticism, they learned to speak the truth in love.

FRANCIS BENNETT CALLAWAY.

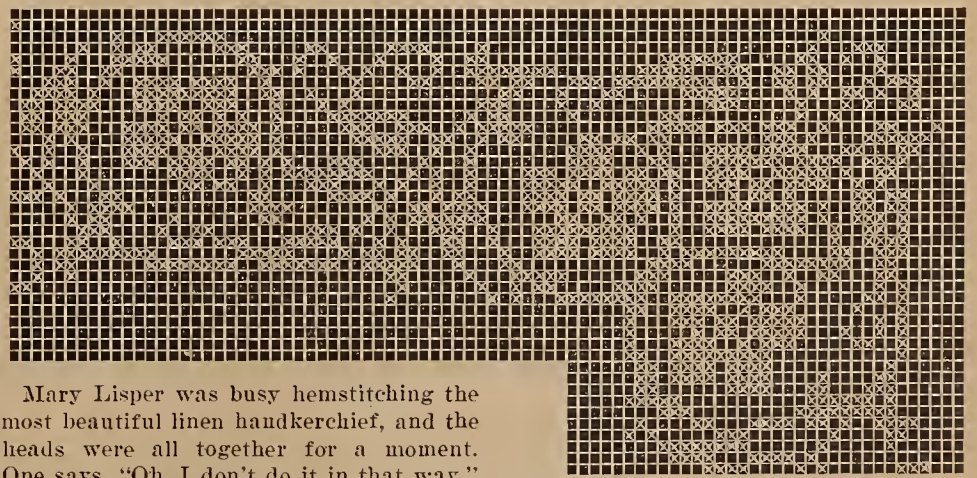
DIFFERENT STYLES OF FANCY-WORK.

The Little Six Club had gathered at Effie Glover's, and while the tongues flew fast, their fingers kept pace with them. Effie, with her tatting-shuttle, was making her fingers fly, and was making double "dixie tatting," joined in rows like the illustration, for the yoke of a dress; it was to be placed upon a dark velvet, and was going to be very taking.

Ada Going was very much interested in the same work, but had set it aside for awhile to cross-stitch some dainty little pillow-cases of pink and white, and blue and white check gingham, of which we give a sample corner.

Ada liked a little tiny eider-down pillow to tuck under her neck at night, and when the little covers were made and trimmed with a ruffle of the same, edged with torchon lace, they looked dainty enough for a baby's bed.

Edythe Ralston was busy with Honiton lace, which she was making over pink muslin, upon which the pattern was traced. She was very fond of soft lacy fabrics, and her fingers were deft at fashioning the filmy pattern of lace which we illustrate.



Mary Lisper was busy hemstitching the most beautiful linen handkerchief, and the heads were all together for a moment. One says, "Oh, I don't do it in that way," and soon it was found that there were several different ways of doing this work. Some gave it a twist that held it more distinctly than some of the others.

Elizabeth Brewster was making trimmings for underwear, to be made up in the late winter months so as to be ready for the coming season, and was joining rick-rack braid into a wide edge for ruffles.

"I like it," she said, "because it is a flat trimming and so durable."

"Well," said Jose, "I'm running ribbons through this scrim to make a cover for my dresser. I don't see how we all happened

into the garment; dry perfectly, then dip in cold starch, the direction for making which are found on every box of good starch. The flat-irons must be clean; if a little rough, rub over with a rag in which is tied a piece of beeswax.

Iron the body of the shirt first, then the neck-band. Next slip a bosom-board inside the shirt, under bosom, and stretch the linen smooth each way; then iron with hot flat-iron. If blisters appear, dampen them down with a drop of cold starch, and iron till dry. If specks of starch or dust appear, rub them off with a damp cloth. Leave the bosom-board in place until the sleeves are ironed and the linen has a chance to become perfectly dry, and it will not wrinkle or muss in removing preparatory to folding. The less padding on the board, the more muscle in the arm, and the same direction of the strokes of the iron, are all conducive to the finer gloss.

GYPSEY.

RUSSIAN BLOUSE SUIT.

This waist holds its own this season, as made with a tight back it is becoming to every one. The suit we illustrate is of green cloth trimmed with jet, the waist confined by a jeweled belt. Walking-hat of mode color, trimmed with green velvet and plumes. The plain skirt is still a favorite, though three tiny ruffles at the bottom are seen.

OATMEAL-FRITTERS.

- 1 egg and a pinch of salt,
- 1 cupful of sweet milk,
- 2 cupfuls of oatmeal that has been cooked,
- 1 teaspoonful of soda,
- 2 teaspoonfuls cream of tartar.

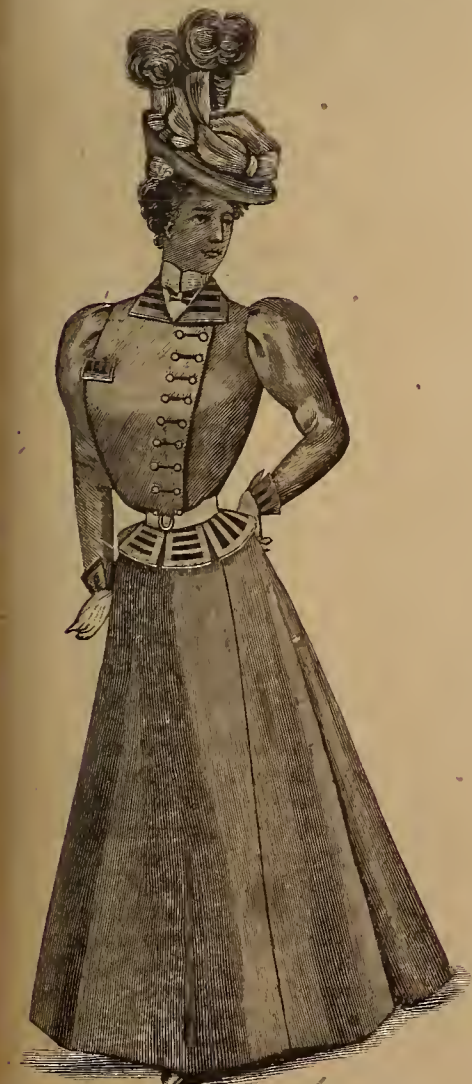
Flour sufficient to make batter a little stiffer than ordinary pan-cake batter.

Have a skillet or spider with hot lard about one fourth of an inch deep. Into this drop the batter by spoonfuls, pressing out as thin as possible; when brown on one

side turn them carefully. Before adding more cakes see that there is plenty of hot lard. Sour milk can be used as well by omitting cream of tartar. Cooked corn, rice or wheat can be used in place of the oatmeal. Corn-fritters are delicious.

GYPSEY.

My two nieces were taken with Whooping Cough. One was placed under care of our best doctor, but she died. To the other we administered Jayne's Expectorant. She got well, and to-day is robust. She was by far the worst of the two.—(Mrs.) ALVIN BIXBY, Garden City, Minn., Oct. 20, 1895.
The best Family Pill—Jayne's Painless Sanative.



book, and after I became a housekeeper I commenced a kitchen-book, but it was not convenient to paste often, so valuable scraps would sometimes be lost, and sometimes I would paste things which read well, but did not stand the test and prove valuable. I frequently came across useful hints or recipes, and not wishing to cut a paper, of which we kept the file, I would forget about them, or at least would not remember where they were to be

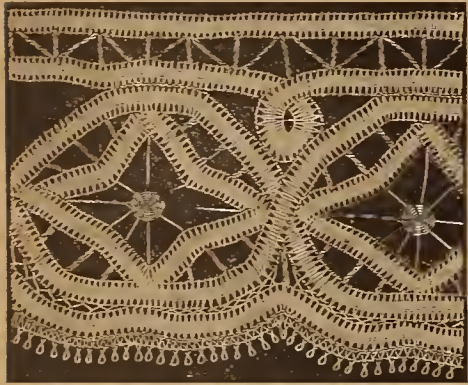
Our Household.

FROM THE KITCHEN.

IT is not in the least my intention to inflict our FARM AND FIRESIDE readers with a genuine dissertation upon dish-washing. But against a few things I must raise a dissenting voice, and a few timely suggestions I verily believe I shall be tempted to make before I have finished my wail of woe from the kitchen.

It sometimes happens, you are aware, that the dish-washing and various other of the many household duties devolving upon the housewife falls, from necessity, into the hands of some one whom it is a very difficult thing to make interested in your home affairs. Attempted persuasion, teaching or demanding makes little difference in the performance of these homely kitchen tasks, and "any way to get through" is apparently the sum and substance of the innermost thought. Isn't it too bad, when even dish-washing may be done with as much pleasure and enjoyment as the fashioning of lovely designs in lovely silks upon centerpieces and doilies? We think it is, and regret to find so many women who "hate dish-washing," and make of it so disagreeable a task that it isn't half done.

So many times we have tried in vain to teach domestic helpers the best way, the neatest way, and the nicest way to wash dishes and care for dish-rags and tea-towels. With another occasional one we have succeeded, and felt repaid for the infinite pains and patience directed to this department of the home, when we have spent time in the kitchen that was ever so much needed elsewhere. If the wheel turns with untrue and indifferent motion in the kitchen, the entire household is soon in a state of disquiet and unrest,



and everything is soon going wrong. And how can a wife and housewife let everything of this nature pass by, just for the sake of being relieved of the duty of doing it herself?

But it not infrequently occurs that the housewife is found to whom "pains-taking" is a word scarce recognized in her vocabulary, and with her, as with many hired helpers, it is anything to get through. Her dishes are hurried through in an indifferent fashion, and they go to the table again, rough-feeling, sticky and greasy. Her dish-rag is a storehouse for microbes and a disgrace to her home. But just such dish-rags it is not in the least hard to find. We have attempted to make use of them when the attempt was futile, and we have dropped the work for others from lack of nerve to proceed and from lack of anything to do with.

When a dish-rag has become so filthy that grease will squeeze up between the fingers when an attempt is made to wring it dry, there can be but just one place for it, and that place a hot fire. And verily, we have been tempted to think that the place for more than half the dish-rags of the land was in the fire.

If the work of washing dishes was properly undertaken, there need be no such dish-rags to begin with. With a pan of clear hot water and a good ten-cent brush-broom, everything that clings to the dishes can be very quickly removed. Turned to drain in another dish-pan, everything of an objectionable nature is removed, and it has all been done in less than five minutes' time, even down to the pans, skillets and kettles, if the family is one of just usual size. Upon every farm one has milk-pails and strainers, pans and crocks, and various utensils of that nature. A hot water-bath, aided by a brush-broom, is first needed. Milk or cream will not mix well with soap-suds. This first bath having been given, one is then ready to wash dishes, and when every piece has been washed in clean hot suds, rinsed and wiped dry with clean white tea towels, of no matter

what kind or cost, the dishes are ready to be put away, and not before. It is almost as quickly done as said, if one is a swift worker and a good manager. But alas! how many among housewives are women who fail in management. Yet there are any number more who manage as well as execute, and plan systematically, making every step count. But such a housewife has never known the need of teaching to make of her a good housekeeper, and she is not one whose dish-rag is a perpetual menace to the health of her household, and a disgrace to her class of "employed."

No one has found need to tell her that her dish-cloth should be kept clean and white, and that when not in use, it should be out of doors on some bush or limb near by. She has washed it out with clean suds and has rinsed it well. She has not hung it away in the pantry, or thrown it down all in a bunch to sour. She gives it close inspection and brings her sense of smell to bear very often, and discovering a sour, musty odor, she either consigns it to the flames and replaces it with new or, if worth it, she scalds it in lye-water.

Her tea-towels, too, are washed out, scalded and rinsed in cold water, when she has done with them for the time, and they are hung in the sun until dry. A bush or tree at the back door does most excellent service as a place to dry such things, and almost every housewife has one somewhere conveniently near.

A lack of basins and dish-pans is a very common thing in kitchens where there is very much to do. Half a dozen dish-pans of tin or granite or galvanized iron is not too many to have for convenience, and we have used a greater number to very good advantage. When one is given out, another one or two is purchased to make good the vacancy. Trying to work with but little to do with is very trying, and moreover, it is discouraging. We have often thought that perhaps to this was due a great deal of the lack of interest in housekeeping and home-keeping. Yet if one is really disposed to be cleanly and fastidious, disorder of a dirty nature will not be tolerated though there is very poverty at the door.

Water, soap and lye, and various of our market cleansing preparations work wonders, and an energetic woman in the kitchen, with a few of such needed supplies at her hand, will make everything so sweetly clean and wholesome that it is a pleasure to be near her and to exchange items with her of "how it is done." But one has some way a disposition to evade the woman who takes no interest in dish-washing and no interest in anything pertaining to her home. It is not a comfortable place to loiter, for there is nothing in common between two such neighbors. It is useless to call them friends, for that they cannot be in truth.

A tidy woman who loves her home, and loves to work, that her home may be pleasant alike for family and friends, finds this world so full of something to live for. She does not despise her routine of duties,



but takes a 'daily' interest in it all, and everything about her becomes a manifestation and proof of her womanly and housewifely nature. She does not give the reins of kitchen government into the keeping of incompetent, careless hands, though she may be obliged at times to give a part of the labor there. But she keeps a wise supervision and a thorough oversight in mind, and permitted by strength and good health, she much prefers to do it all herself. For waste, disorder and untidiness in her kitchen is to her akin to illness, and if things shall be after all left undone, or half done, she prefers to leave them so herself.

ELLA HOUGHTON.

FREE PATTERN CATALOGUE.

Our latest catalogue of cut paper patterns for fall and winter dresses will be sent to any address, free, upon request. Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

CYCLING-GAITER, WITH SHAPED KNEE.

The gaiter is full size; it is very strong and durable, as it is worked in 3-ply wool in two colors, which gives extra strength. The gaiter comes well over the knee onto the thigh. The pattern commences in the knee and is in little checks. Four No. 12 needles, four skeins of dark red and four of dark brown wool; knitting measures 7 stitches to the inch. Cast on with the two wools 97 stitches. First round with red. Knit off 32 stitches onto two needles, 33 on the last. Knit the last one with the first in the round. Second round—Knit 4, purl 2, alternately. Knit 6 rounds



in the rib, then with brown 2 rounds, 3 rounds red, 3 rounds brown, 3 red, 4 brown, 3 red, 6 brown, 3 red, 4 brown, 3 red, 3 brown, 3 red, 2 brown, 6 rounds red. Purl 2 rounds with brown, knit 2 with red, purl 2 with brown.

COMMENCE THE KNEE.—Here the pattern for the leg begins, a check of red and brown alternately, 2 stitches in each check. * With red wool knit 2, brown wool to the front. Purl 2. Wool back, repeat from * until there are 26 stitches knitted; these are the top of the knee. Turn. Keep the two wools to the front of the needle; the brown wool must be passed to the back of the needle to knit the brown stitches; keep that for the purl stitches to the front. Knit and purl 2 alternately, knit the 26, and 2 more. Turn, change your colors and your stitches, a purl check over the knitted one, and the red over the brown. Take up 2 more stitches each little row, and change the wool and checks every 2 rows until you have knitted 70 stitches. Then knit the whole round.

THE LEG.—Mark the center stitch, counting it from the 13th on the first needle, as that is the center of the knee. Arrange the stitches to make the center one the first stitch on the first needle, knit to it. First round of leg in checks as before. Knit 56 rounds in checks. Fifty-seventh round—Decrease each end of the round, the 2 first and 2 last together. Knit 7 rounds with no decreaseings. Sixty-fifth round—Decrease in the 2 first and 2 last stitches. Decrease again in the 71st, 76th, 82d, 87th and 92d rounds. Then knit 10 more rounds in checks, and commence

THE ANKLE.—Knit in ribs of 2 knit and 2 purl, but keep the check as before, only rib the knitting. Knit 30 rounds, and then divide the heel.

THE HEEL.—Put the first 21 stitches and the last 21 onto a needle, and knit 4 rows in red, in the ribs, then 4 in brown. Repeat the red and brown stripes again, then 2 more in red; leave these stitches on a thread. Take up on the side of the heel with red wool 13 stitches, knit the front; these are the stitches left in the center of the leg in checks as before. Then raise 13 on the other side, in red only. Turn. Knit 13 plain in red, the front in checks, the next 13 plain in red. These gusset stitches are knit plain throughout. Second row—Knit 12; knit the next with the first of the front; knit the front, with the last stitch knit the first of the 13; then knit 12 plain. Third row—No decreaseings. Knit these two rows until all the gusset stitches are knit off. Then knit, in checks only, 22 more rows. After that 7 rows of red in the rib. Eighth row—Of red. Knit 2 together, knit plain to the last 2 stitches, knit those together. Take up on the side of the foot and gusset 30 stitches. Knit the stitches left on the heel in ribs; raise 30 more on the other side. Knit 3 rounds of knit 1, purl 1, then purl a round and cast off. Put a strap of leather just upon the ends of the gusset.—M. Elliott.

A TALK WITH GIRLS.

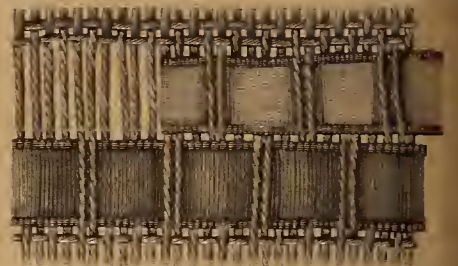
"I never wrap my ears in a shawl," said a bright girl in my hearing the other day. "Mama and Auntie talk about health, but I am not an old woman yet." A great many girls feel the same and think they will lose something in looks by protecting themselves from the cold. Now, my dear girls, nothing will make bright eyes and rosy cheeks look enter, sweeter, prettier—any word you will—than a fluffy boa or fascinator out of which the bright eyes

sparkle brighter and cheeks and lips show a daintier carmine. The Spanish women famed for their beauty appreciate this fact and are always seen with some dainty drapery about their faces, even if the climate does not require it. While perfectly willing to acknowledge their right to be called beautiful, I know from observation that the mist-like cloud of lace about their head and shoulders adds the softening grace that so many of them would otherwise lack.

No one blames a girl for wanting to look pretty. In fact, it is a laudable ambition, and no healthy girl of taste need be considered homely; but an exhibition of cold ears, blue lips and cheeks is far from beautiful. To be pretty or pleasing, which after all is nearly the same thing, one must be comfortable. For once Dame Fashion has decreed that beauty and utility may be combined. Velvet, lace and ribbon make such pretty boas, and while these are fluffy and light in appearance, are a perfect guard against that "chill" that will in cold weather creep in one's throat.

Most mothers see that their daughters are warmly and properly clad otherwise, but often overlook this weak point in a girl's armor against cold; hence, I appeal directly to the girls.

There is an old saying that "pride keeps a girl's ears warm." This winter let it be pride in a pretty boa. If money is plentiful, have a fur or feather boa, but if economy is necessary, just conclude that you prefer lace and ribbon. Look over those you already have, maybe you will find just what you need. Get one of the late fashion-books and go to work. Call in your mother for advice, if you get bothered. Then see if some one does not tell you, after the next sleigh-ride or sociable, that you never looked prettier in your life—a compliment that in itself should be a reward for more labor and time than you have expended, but a greater practical reward is yours in the added comfort to your whole body. If a fascinator is preferred, the description of a beautiful



one will be found in Belle King's article in the December 1st FARM AND FIRESIDE. These are handsome in all colors, but the cream-white are by far the richest looking, and are suitable for use with any dress.

SARA NELEH CLAY.

WINTER EVENINGS ON THE FARM.

Are not these among the most pleasant times of farm life? First, there is the evening meal, usually a warm one, for the children carry their mid-day lunch to the school-house. Now there is time to relate the occurrences of the day, to rejoice over school triumphs, and talk over the knowledge gained. Then there are the dishes to wash and the preparations for breakfast to make. In the meantime the barn chores are finished, and at a comparatively early hour the family gather in the cheerful sitting-room.

Let this room be cheery with that cheap but necessary thing, light. Two or three lamps will be necessary, if the family is a large one. And, please, busy mother, put the cover on your sewing-machine. If you must sew, let it be a bit of plain needle-work that will enable you to take part in—may, to lead the evening's occupation.

What shall these occupations be? There may be lessons to prepare, and these are so much more interesting if they can be talked over with father, mother or an older brother or sister. But there is something radically wrong in a school system that requires growing boys and girls to spend all their evening hours over lessons. Let part of the time be spent in reading aloud. The newspapers are usually sketched over and discussed through the day. This quiet hour is the time for the instructive and entertaining book. If history is "too dry," try biography. Our boys and girls can never know too well the story of Washington, Lincoln, Garfield and Grant. Travels, such as Bayard Taylor's

"Views Afoot," or Stevenson's "Travels with a Donkey," will be as entertaining as fairy-tales. And don't be afraid of the good novel. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps' "A Singular Life" might be read with profit by every thoughtful person in our land. Miss Alcott's stories, as well as those of Hale, Cooper and "Oliver Optic," are part of the rightful inheritance of the coming American men and women.

But don't read all the time. If you own a musical instrument never let the evening hour pass without music. If not, sing. How many can recall from among memories choicest pictures the evening hour devoted to song. These recollections may be among your most highly prized possessions. Will you not see that your boy and girl enter the active, greedy world with as strong ties to bind them to their care-free past?

Then there is the big pan of apples brought up from the cellar; rosy Spies and golden-green Greenings. And the nuts and—best of all—the crisp, sweet pop-corn. Even the molasses-candy and "taffy" can be occasionally endured by the tidy mother, providing she has taught her children habits of neatness and order.

No time, did some one say? Ah, you have all the time there is. Can you spend it in a better way than in making happy those who are dear to you?

HOPE DARING.

THE SKY-PARLOR BEDROOMS.

We had so often said, "Why, when he was building the house, did he not make it two stories, when the same roof would have done?" Cottage home sounds well in print, but when it comes to furnishing a room with walls like a tent it takes a good deal of ingenuity.

Several of the family, one after another, had occupied the room and exercised their taste in it, but no one succeeded so well as the last one.

It looked south with one window, either side of which would hold a low bed. The window always gave us trouble, as no matter what was up, if a shade, the rain always spoiled it when the window was lowered at the top; if curtains, they were always blown down, or if the window was opened at the bottom they always streamed out like a flag of truce.

So we decided. We had a picture-frame of molding made to fit inside the window-frame, across which we strung macrame cord on little tacks at the back. This was secured inside the window. Below this we put short lace curtains on a brass rod, and on the lower sash a sash curtain. Now we can pull the window down at the top without disarranging any of it.

A low brass bed was the next consideration, with a canopy over a rod. The curtain and valance match, and are of pale green silkolene with large flowers.

The spread is a linen sheet with large scrolls and whirls of old pink rope-silk. The bolster matches in the same material, and is used only as a decorative article, other pillows being used at night. A long box to hold dresses is on the side under the low part of the eaves; this is covered with art cretonne and has a number of pillows upon it of several kinds of material; several low chairs, a rocker, a dressing-table and an oil-stove complete it, with long narrow picture hung on the low walls. It is a pretty room now, but still we don't forgive the man for not building two stories.

CHRISTIE IRVING.

GIRLS' EMPLOYMENTS.

No subject is so popular at the present moment as the "Woman Question" in any of its phases. Whether it be the iniquity of nature in that she alone should bear the pains of maternity, or the cruelty of men in that they have the harder and she the more monotonous work—whether it be her wrongs inflicted or rights denied—her desire to be drilled or her refusal to obey—her frantic love for nursing in the male wards of a hospital or her ambition to shoot big game and send her "ball crashing along the spine of a tiger"—whatever it may be, she is the most salient member of modern society; and whatever other subjects may be thrashed out to the last grain, she, like the river, goes on forever, and we never come to the end. But the oddest part of the matter is that the whole thing is treated as if women were a novelty in the world—as if maternity and the headship of man—the apportionment of spheres or functions, of virtues

and proprieties, dated from yesterday, and were injustices but lately imposed. Whence come the logical righteousness of the modern revolt, and the ethical value of the new woman.

Among other things to be provide for is the fit and harmonious occupation for girls. Under the old regime, girls who were not obliged to make their own living were content to find their duties, their amusements, their employments at home. It was not considered necessary for every one to work in the open—well-endowed wife and maiden, as well as fortuneless men—family ties being closer, and the sense of family honor, as of feminine dignity, being greater than they are now. If, a century or so ago, the women of position looked after the housekeeping, and the girls of a lower, but still cultured, caste practically helped in the housework, that was all which was demanded of them, and more would have been superfluous and ill-considered. The poor relations might go to their richer cousins' houses as the hand where the lady was the head; but the coarser things of life and society were relegated to the coarser strata, and to be a lady by birth implied more than the art of bridling according to rules, or of making a courtesy that should describe the exact sweep demanded by experts. By degrees, however, the increasing luxuriansness of the age put an end to the practical housekeeping of the well-to-do gentry, and home life with nothing to do became somewhat

being so, the wisest course therefore is to help on the movement by advocating the best and the most useful methods by which women—and especially the daughters of the house—may occupy their time with profit to others and without loss of dignity and delicacy to themselves.—Mrs. Lynn Linton.

CURTAINS.

One can almost judge of the inmates of a house by the appearance of the curtains, and nothing furnishes a room better. Some people think twice a year is enough to change them, but my idea is to take them down when they are dirty, if it is once a month, and have them cleaned.

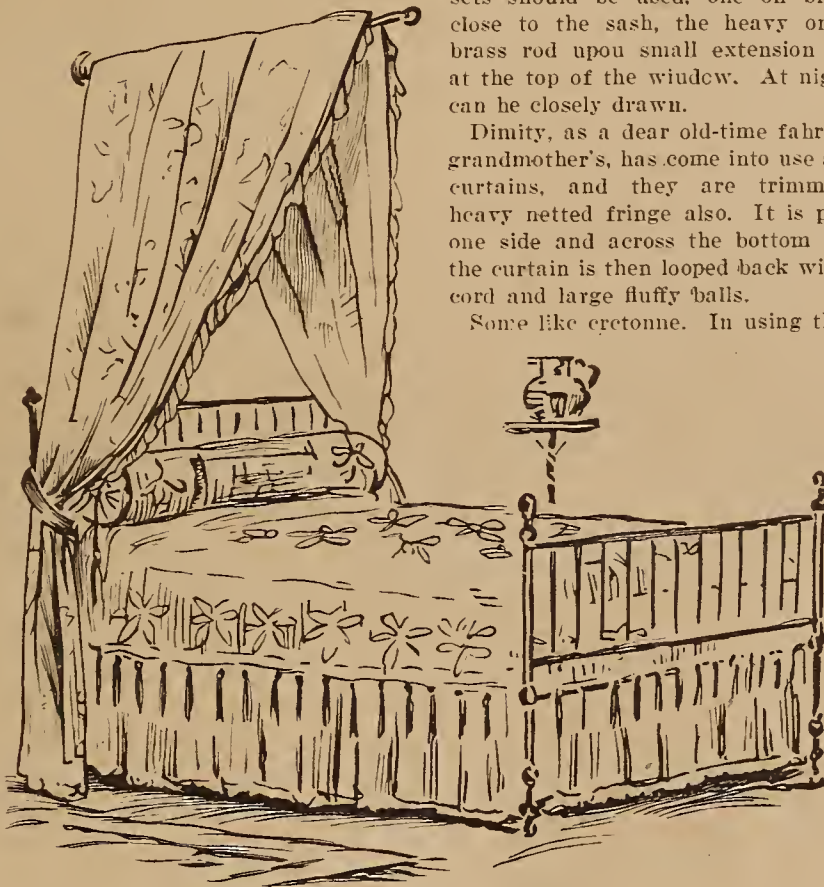
If needs be, have them of a material that will stand constant laundering. Or if your curtains are fine ones, have another pair of plainer ones to change with, so your windows will not be without them.

There are several kinds of materials offered for sale. For modest homes, dotted swiss muslins are pretty. Just now it is the fad to have them come only as far down as the woodwork of the window.

Sash curtains should always appear at all windows. It gives a privacy to one's home that is always desirable. Coarse net, which comes in various qualities, three yards wide, is nice for these kind of curtains. A wide hem should be made at the bottom and a heading appear at the top. They hang prettier if run upon brass rods. If it is desirable to darken a room, two sets should be used, one on brass rods close to the sash, the heavy ones on a brass rod upon small extension brackets at the top of the window. At night these can be closely drawn.

Dinuity, as a dear old-time fabric of our grandmother's, has come into use again for curtains, and they are trimmed with heavy netted fringe also. It is put down one side and across the bottom end, and the curtain is then looped back with cotton cord and large fluffy balls.

Some like cretonne. In using this select



monotonous and stupid. Very few women care for art or learning for its own sake; and when girls come back from school they do not often continue their studies with anything like zeal; wherefore their music and drawing fail to absorb them to any appreciable extent, and their reading has neither purpose nor intent, neither a tangible aim nor a clear result. On this rather dead-alive kind of thing broke in the craze for athletics and out-of-door sports; and side by side with this woke up the desire for "work"—of any kind, be it understood, but that included in the duties of the home life. "Work" has been the cry of fluffy-headed young creatures, who disdained what was at their hands in favor of something different and out of the house; and "work" has grown to be a shibboleth by which restlessness has sought to masquerade itself as energy, and "justifying one's existence" is the sonorous euphemism for want of filial love—for hankering after adventures—and for an amount of "individualism" which precludes the very idea of that self-sacrifice which contentedly does what, perhaps, may be a little irksome, but what is undoubtedly the right thing to do.

Well, so things are; and it is impossible to stop the march of the Spirit of the Age. He has to go on and on, destroying as he goes, and while he destroys the old, creating the new. Time alone can winnow the chaff from the grain in the changes made; and in this question of woman's altered relations to the world and society the discriminating action of time is emphatically essential. This

something to match your wall-paper in color, or the general color scheme of the room. If one craves for originality there is a beautiful quality of scrim, at four dollars a yard, which can be made by hand, and lace insertion introduced between hems. The very neatness of their make stamps them immediately. After all, the main thing is to have them clean, and gracefully hung. If you cannot trust your own taste, some one can always be found who can supply it. More satisfaction can be realized by letting some one who has the taste arrange such things for you.

BELLE KING.

SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

The question of spraying fruit trees to prevent the depredations of insect pests and fungus diseases is no longer an experiment but a necessity.



Our readers will do well to write Wm. Stahl, Quincy, Ill., and get his catalogue describing twenty-one styles of Spraying Outfits and full treatise on spraying the different fruit and vegetable crops, which may be had for the asking and contains much valuable information.

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to wash as clean as can be done on the washboard, even to the wristbands and collar of the dirtiest shirt, and with much more ease. This applies to Terriff's Perfect Washer, which will be sent on trial at wholesale price. If not satisfactory, money will be refunded. Agents wanted. For exclusive territory, terms & prices, write Portland Mfg. Co., Box 4, Portland, Mich.

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Our Sunday Afternoon.

EPIPHANY.

He came; no pomp, nor royal crown
Waited His steps or decked His brow.
But grief and shame oppressed Him now,
While friends disown,
And death the injured King laid low.

He came; but few Him reverence paid;
The cold world's scorn, the sharpened spear,
The taunt, the thorn, the sigh, the tear
Were His instead;
No room nor home for Jesus here.

He comes again; earth's diadem
And thrones of power to Him belong.
While round Him angels chant in song,
And bright as gems
His saints shall join the mighty throng.

He comes. He comes; but not alone,
For myriads now are in His train;
And earth, and sky, and sounding main
Shall cease their groan,
And shout Him welcome back again.

He comes; oh, hearts that wait that morn,
Be clean, stand firm, watch now and pray.
And sweetly then the King shall say:
"Beloved, well done;
Enter the everlasting day."

—D. T. Taylor.

TIDINESS.

IN days gone by, before the new woman appeared upon the scene of action, girls were rigidly taught the good old-fashioned way of tidiness. "Neatness" hardly expresses my meaning as well as does the quaint old-time word. To be "tidy," Webster tells us, is to be arranged in good order; neat; kept in proper and becoming neatness. Nowadays girls are neat to a certain extent and in a certain way. They bathe freely and wear clean clothes; but are they tidy? Frequently they are not. The hair is often loose and prone to tumble down, and their gloves are sometimes ripped at the finger-tips, and one or two buttons are lacking from their boots. The stock-collar is often fastened on with an ordinary white pin that is very obvious, and the veil has occasionally a hole over the nose or chin. Our girl is charming; but is she as careful as she ought to be?

The other day I was making a morning call at a friend's house, and there met another caller, a woman who made an agreeable impression upon me. She was not elaborately dressed, but her black tailor-made gown fitted her well, and there was not a spot or speck of dust on it. I knew that it had been brushed carefully before she had left her room. Her linen collar and cuffs were snowy white, and did not twist or shift from their proper places. Her gloves did not wrinkle, and buttoned smoothly over the wrists; her shoes were like the rest of her attire—dainty; and her bonnet rested firmly and straight on soft brown hair, that, while wavy and fluffy, was neatly dressed, and so securely pinned that I fancy a high wind would not have caused it to come down. A thin veil covered a fresh complexion and bright face. The tout ensemble gave one the idea of daintiness and delicate finish. In speaking of this woman afterward to a man who knows her, I said:

"There is something about her appearance that charms one. What is the secret?"

"I will tell you," he said. "She is a well-groomed woman. There are never any rough or loose ends about her."

"You mean that she is tidy," I said to him.

"You call it 'tidy,' I say 'well-groomed.' We both mean the same thing."

However one may express it—in sporting terms or with the old-fashioned word—is the condition not well worth striving for?—Harper's Bazar.

THE FOLLY OF FEAR.

A great deal of talent is lost in the world for the want of a little courage. Every day sends to their graves a number of obscure men, who have only remained in obscurity because their timidity has prevented them from making a first effort, and who, if they could only have been induced to begin, would in all probability have gone great lengths in the career of fame. The fact is, to do anything in this world worth doing, we must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can. It will not do

to be perpetually calculating risks and adjusting nice chances. It did very well before the flood, when a man could consult his friends upon an intended publication for a hundred and fifty years, and then live to see its success afterward. But at present man waits, and doubts, and consults his brother and his particular friends, till one fine day he is sixty years of age; then he has lost so much time in consulting his first cousins and particular friends that he has no more time to follow their advice.—Sidney Smith.

UNAPPRECIATED BLESSINGS.

A poor old widow, living in the Scottish Highlands, was called upon one day by a gentleman who had heard she was in need. The old lady complained of her condition, and that her son was in Australia, and doing well. "But he does nothing to help you?" inquired the visitor. "No, nothing," was the reply. "He writes me regularly once a month, but only sends me a little picture with his letter." The gentleman asked to see one of the pictures that she had received, and found each one of them to be a draft for ten pounds. That is the condition of many of God's children. He has given us many "exceeding great and precious promises," which we either are ignorant of or fail to appropriate. Many of them seem to be pretty pictures of an ideal peace and rest, but are not appropriate as practical helps in daily life. And not one of these promises is more neglected than the assurance of salvation. An open Bible places them within reach of all, and we may appropriate the blessing which such a knowledge brings.—D. L. Moody.

THE PURE AIR CURE.

Will Carleton's interesting magazine, "Everywhere," offered a prize recently for the best cure for a cold. Among the many recipes submitted, the judges sought for one which would cure invariably, and apply to all cases. They think they have found it in the following: "Throw back the shoulders, close the mouth and inhale, filling the lungs. Force the air out through the nose. Repeat at short intervals until relieved."

The treatment is undoubtedly a good one, though hardly radical enough to abort a vigorous and determined cold. But it has the advantage of interfering with no other treatment deemed necessary or wise. There is no doubt that lack of good air is responsible for more physical disorders than we imagine. The air of a common sitting-room, office or railroad-car is an offense to a person just entering from the pure outside atmosphere, and it cannot be but harmful to those who endure it.—Healthy Home.

A BITTER WORD.

A bitter word dropped from our lips against a brother is like a pistol fired amongst mountains. The sharp report is caught up and intensified and echoed by rocks and caves till it is like thunder. So an unkind word, in passing from mouth to mouth, receives progressive exaggerations, and snow-hall like increases as it rolls. Scandal-mongers are the persons who tear the bandages from social wounds and prevent their healing. A whisper-word of slander is like that fox with a firebrand tied to its tail, that Sampson sent among the standing corn of the Philistines. It brings destruction into wide areas of peace and love. Evil-speaking is like a freezing wind, seals up the sparkling waters and tender juices of flowers and binds up the hearts of men in uncharitableness and bitterness of spirit, as the earth is bound up in the grip of winter.—Catholic Review.

A WISE PRECAUTION.

The "Kolnische Zeitung" relates this anecdote of the late French senator, Renaud: When Renaud first came as senator to Paris he engaged a room at a hotel and paid a month's rent—one hundred and fifty francs—in advance. The proprietor asked if he would have a receipt.

"It is not necessary," replied Renaud, "God has witnessed the payment."

"Do you believe in God?" sneered the host.

"Most assuredly," replied Renaud; "don't you?"

"Not I, monsieur."

"Ah," said the senator, "I will take a receipt, if you please."

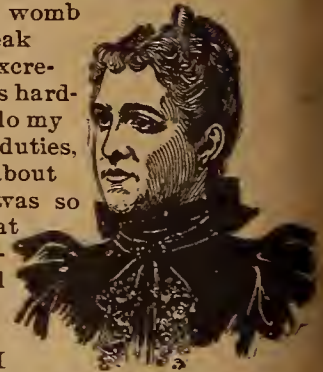
GOD'S PROMISE.

A grip of a promise of God is better than a grasp of a bag of gold. A grip of such a promise as this, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," will enable you to understand the exhortation which Paul saddles upon it, "Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Heb. 13:5).—Spurgeon.

MRS. ELLA M'GARVY,

Writing to Mrs. Pinkham.

She says:—I have been using your Vegetable Compound and find that it does all that it is recommended to do. I have been a sufferer for the last four years with womb trouble, weak back and excretions. I was hardly able to do my household duties, and while about my work was so nervous that I was miserable. I had also given up in despair, when I was persuaded to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and to-day, I am feeling like a new woman.—MRS. ELLA M'GARVY, Neebe Road Station, Cincinnati, O.



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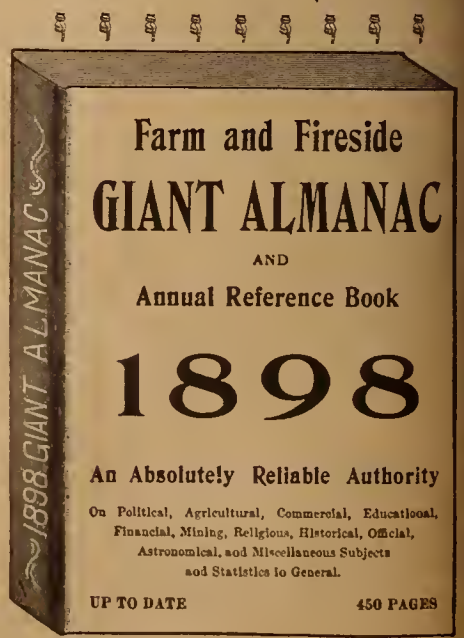
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\$3 a Day Sure Send us your address and we will show you how to make \$3 a day absolutely sure; we furnish the work and teach you free; you work in the locality where you live. Send us your address and we will explain the business fully; remember we guarantee a clear profit of \$3 for every day's work, absolutely sure; write at once. ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., Box 114, DETROIT, MICH.

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Smiles.**HAD THE DEAD WOOD ON THEM.**

There was none who could plan them a scaffold they knew
But the man they were going to "string,"
For he was a competent carpenter who
Could properly fashion the thing.
And so in the midst of their troublesome task
They asked him to pilot them through it,
But he shook his head, and he winked as he said,
"Oh, no, I'll be hanged if I'll do it."

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Eight long columns to the page;
To read everything would add
A full twelvemonth to your age.
So each reads his special part,
Then he lets the paper fall.
Pity for him who reads the proofs,
For he has to read it all.

—The Philadelphian.

MODERN DEFINITIONS.

In the hurly-burly of every-day business, men are not always prepared to answer a fool according to his folly, and hence the latter often departs under the impression that he is the wise man and you the other one. This is offered as a reason for "Lunar Caustic," a recent book. Here is a part of its vocabulary:

Art—A plagiarism on nature.
Ass—A man who can deny more than he can prove.

Ancient—Something that existed last week.
Benefactor—An enemy to be shunned after accepting his favors.

Bore—A friend in distress.

Business—Everybody else's affairs.

Charity—Ten cents for the poor, and ninety cents salary, expenses and commission for collecting the dollar.

Congress—A "trust" in public contracts.

Correction—Making an error more apparent.

Discovery—Anything found out.

Divorce—Modern interpretation of "Whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

Excuse—A confession of guilt.

Financier—A man who has failed in business.

Friend—The man who borrows your money and forgets to return it.

Fool—Always the other fellow.

Guide—A person who leads you astray.

Heredity—The transmigration of the results of high living; also a reason given by physicians and psychologists when they cannot find any other reason.

Honesty—Successful dealing of any kind. When unsuccessful it is the opposite.

Humanity—Tears shed over the sufferings of people a thousand miles away.

Innocence—Presumption of guilt.

Integrity—(Obsolete).

Idiot—What is the matter with you?

Law—The will of the people expressed by them in legislature; set aside by them in the courts; ridiculed by them in juries, and violated by them at all times.

Labor Agitator—A gentleman who advises others not to work.

Lie—A synonym for "truth."—Detroit Free Press.

WHAT HE WANTED.

A Swede came into a lawyer's office one day and asked: "Is here ben a lawyer's place?"

"Yes; I'm a lawyer."

"Well, Maister Lawyer, I tank I shall have a paper made."

"What kind of a paper do you want?"

"Well, I tank I shall have a mortgage. You see, I buy me a piece of land from Nels Petersen, and I want a mortgage on it."

"Oh, no. You don't want a mortgage; what you want is a deed."

"No, Maister; I tank I want a mortgage. You see I buy me two pieces of land before, and I got deed for dem, and 'nother faller come along with mortgage and take the land; so I tank I better get mortgage this time."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

DRUNKENNESS IS A DISEASE.

Will send free Book of Particulars how to cure "Drunkenness or the Liquor Habit" with or without the knowledge of the patient. Address Dr. J. W. Haines, No. 439 Race Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

IT WAS DEAR.

An editor has been inspired, after looking over his list of delinquent subscribers, to compose the following: "How dear to our heart is the old silver dollar, when some kind subscriber presents it to view; the liberty head without necktie or collar, and all the strange things which to us seem so new; the wide-spreading eagle, the arrows below it, the stars and the words with the strange things they tell; the coin of our fathers, we're glad that we know it, for some time or other 'twill come in right well; the spread-eagle dollar, the star-spangled dollar, the old silver dollar we all love so well."—Troy Times.

TRYING.

Mrs. Grady—"It's an alsy lolfe yez are livin' now, Mrs. O'Style, in yer foine new house on de avenoo. 'Twas a lucky thing fer yez thot yer Mike whnt to Klondike."

Mrs. O'Style (haughtily)—"Yis, Mrs. O'Grady, it's a folne lolfe, but so tryin' on me nerves; me Mary Ann is alwnz a-playin' on de payanner, an' me Katie is larnin' to slug, an' me ole mon is forever yellin' wid de jinjams, an' Bridget makes sech a noise in de kitchen wld de silver, an'—oh, dear, Mrs. O'Grady, thank hiven thot yez are not wan of de aristocracy!"—Life.

HE WAS PREJUDICED.

A Texas judge was robbed of a horse not long ago, and the thief, being apprehended, was brought before him for trial. The judge eyed the prisoner with deep satisfaction for a minute or so, and then delivered himself of the following: "Owing to a personal prejudice, the court will not hear this case. It will be tried by the bailiffs, who will find a verdict in accordance with the facts. In the meantime," he added, impressively, "the court will go outside and bend a rope and pick out a good tree."—Argonaut.

EASILY IDENTIFIED.

Mr. Sububb—"Where on earth is our hired man? I can't find him anywhere."

Mrs. Sububb—"There is somebody over in Farmer Hayseed's meadow, but I can't tell whether it's our man or not."

Mr. Sububb—"Is he standing up or sitting down?"

Mrs. Sububb—"Standing."

Mr. Sububb—"It isn't our man."—New York Weekly.

A FATHER'S MEAN TRICK.

Enamored youth—"I beg you, sir, for the hand of your daughter. I cannot live without her."

Old Grumps—"Glad to hear it. I can't live with her. Name the day, young man, and have it soon."

Enamored youth (hacking off)—"U'm—er—please give me time to reflect."—New York Weekly.

SLOW PAY.

"Sir," said the gilded youth to his tailor, "I would like to get another suit. I am paying attentions to one of the richest girls—"

"Paying attentions, hey?" said the tailor, scornfully. "Well, if you are as slow paying them as you are paying me, your wedding will be chronicled as 'Another Octogenarian Married.'"—Puck.

WOULD TAKE IT WITH HIM.

"Well?" said the assistant in a chemist's shop to an Irishman who pointed to a pile of soap.

"I want a lump of that," answered the Irishman.

"Thank you. Will you have it scented or unscented?"

"I'll take it wid me."—The Household.

NEW PHASE OF THE QUESTION.

Secretary of the navy—"What is your pleasure, ladies?"

Spokeswoman—"I—er—believe you call a man-of-war 'she,' don't you?"

Secretary of the navy—"Yes, madam."

Spokeswoman—"Well, then, we demand that you call her a woman-of-war."—Judge.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. The genuine has L. B. Q. on each tablet.

"In two days and an afternoon," writes Mrs. F. B. Elliott, Pataskala, Ohio, "I have taken 31 subscriptions for WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, and expect next week to swell the list to 100 at least. The magazine meets the popular demand remarkably well." A great many of our lady readers can do as well as Mrs. Elliott by simply trying. Write the publishers of this paper for agents' terms for FARM AND FIRESIDE, also WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, with special helps for season of 1897-98.

AN AGENT WANTED

In every town and neighborhood to solicit subscriptions for the

Woman's Home Companion

Extra liberal commissions, and special helps furnished, including the most successful premiums. Good income assured workers.

Write at once for terms and sample copies. Supplies free. Address

Mast, Crowell & Kirkpatrick, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

CURED WITHOUT TAKING MEDICINE INTO THE STOMACH.

By Means of the France Medicated Pad the Medicines are applied directly to the seat of Disease.

Recommended by Physicians.—Used by People of Refinement. A great invention for the cure of Diseases of the Nerves, Spine, Stomach and Digestive Organs, Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Irritation, Inflammation, Frequent Micturition, Gravel, etc., Chronic Inflammation of Womb, Painful or Irregular Menstruation, Female Weakness, Protruded Uteri, Sexual Indifference, Itching, Ovarian Tumors, Hysteria, Headache, Leucorrhoea or Whites, Heart and Nervous Diseases, Sterility or Barrenness.

Our pad for Men is positively the most complete and successful known. To introduce this Great Invention we will send remedied free (in a plain case), by mail, for a limited time, to any one suffering from any disease, weakness or disability. Write or call today. All letters are strictly confidential.

DR. FRANCE & CO., 21 Garfield Place, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Baco-Curo Don't Stop Tobacco Suddenly and rack the nerves. Take BACO-CURO, the only cure while using tobacco. 50c. or \$1 boxes. 8 boxes (Guaranteed Cure) \$2.50; of druggists or of us. It Gently Weans. EUREKA CHEMICAL AND MFG. CO., La Crosse, Wis.

FAT HOW TO REDUCE IT. Miss M. Nobles, Radnor, Wis., writes: "Your remedy reduced my weight 54 lbs. and I think it is the simplest and grandest remedy in the world to reduce superfluous fat." It is purely vegetable and can be prepared at home at little expense. No starve, no sickness. Sample box and full particulars in plain envelope sent free to anyone. It costs you nothing to try it. HALL CHEM. CO., 8 BOX, St. Louis, Mo.

ON 30 DAYS' TRIAL.

EGGLESTON'S ELASTIC TRUSS THIS NEW Has a Pad different from all others, is cup shape, with self-adjusting Ball in center, adapts itself to all positions of the body, while the ball in the cup presses back the intestines, just as a person does with the finger. With light pressure the Hernia is held securely day and night, and a radical cure certain. It is easy, durable and cheap. Sent by mail. Circulars free. C. H. EGGLESTON & CO., 1205 MASONIC TEMPLE, CHICAGO.

FREE TO BALD HEADS. We will mail on application, free information how to grow hair upon a bald head, stop falling hair, and remove scalp diseases. Address: The crowning glory of **Altenheim Medical Dispensary** woman is her hair. Dept. J.S., Box 779, Cincinnati, O.

D. O. PHELPS BROWN'S HERBAL OINTMENT Cures Through the Pores. Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sprains, Weak Back, Burns, sores of all kinds. All druggists or by mail, 25 cents. J. GIBSON BROWN, Dept. O. H. Jersey City, N. J.

ASTHMA CURED! Dr. Hair's cure has brought happiness to sufferers. A \$1.00 bottle and valuable treatise sent free, you pay the expressage. Address, Dept. 160, DR. E. W. HAIR, Cincinnati, O.

OPIUM and Liquor Habit cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Dr. J. L. Stephens, Dept. A, Lebanon, Ohio.

NEW Big winner for Winter season canvassing. Nothing Like It. Bookmen, lady agents, etc., get extra chance. Mast, Crowell & Kirkpatrick, Springfield, Ohio.

BED WETTING CURED. Sample FREE. DR. F. E. MAY, Bloomington, Ill.

PILES Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. BOTOT, Augusta, Maine.

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FITS A Great Remedy Discovered. Send for a FREE package & let it speak for itself. Postage 5c. DR. S. PERKEY, Chicago, Ills.

RUPTURE A positive, radical cure at home (Sealed). Book giving full particulars sent free. Address DR. W. S. RICE, Box F, Smithville, Jeff. Co., N. Y.

BED-WETTING CURED or no pay. Mrs. B. Rowan, Milwaukee, Wis.

Dr. Isaac Thompson's EYE WATER If affected with SORE EYES.

Our Miscellany.

THE LASSO.

The lasso is of great antiquity. It is said to be depicted in the ruins of Nineveh. An early Persian manuscript, preserved in the Escorial, shows a sportsman (whom I suppose royal by his Olympian expression and careless seat), in the act of catching a wild ass with a nicely plaited lasso. The monarch hestrides a rather "stocky" looking, dark-colored horse, with four white feet and a white face. A bow, quivers and a saber are hung from his saddle, and a sort of housing half covers the horse. How the wild ass is to be restrained, even by the hand of a monarch, is not at first sight evident, for the lasso is neither fixed to the saddle after the fashion of the gauchos, nor is a half turn taken round the pommel, in the style adopted by vaqueros in Mexico and Texas. Apart from this detail, all is as realistically set forth as it would be to-day in a photograph. The horse bears away from the beast lassoed, and the king sits a little to one side, exactly as a Texan cowboy or an Argentine gaucho sits under similar circumstances. Irises and Narcissi spring up under the horse's feet, and an applauding group of angels peep out of a cloud, while in the middle distance another Persian gaucho shoots an antelope with an arrow while galloping at full speed.

The Laplanders are said to lasso their reindeer, and the Tartars and modern Australians use a rudimentary lasso fixed to a long pole in order to catch wild or refractory horses. The Poles, Croats and Wallachians, with the Hungarians, seemed to have used the lasso till about the beginning of the present century. A picture by the German artist, Richter, shows Polish remounts for the German cavalry being lassoed in the Zwinger, at Dresden. The horses look as wild as a Texan "broncho" or an Argentine "gagual," and the attitude of men and animals, and the way ropes are coiled and thrown, are identical with those adopted in Spanish America to-day. The lasso appears to run through a ring in the pommel of the saddle. It is however, in Spanish America where the art has been most developed. This is on account of the open country and the vast numbers of wild and semi-wild horses which, up to the middle of the present century, overspread its plains.—Badminton Magazine.

THE OLD, OLD STORY.

"There it is again! The same old heading; the same old subject; the same time-worn arguments. Yes, and it will continue to hoh up until time, in its onward march, has pounded reason into the heads of the people, sense into the brains of their legislators and, finally, laws into the statute-books of the state.

"Good-roads legislation is a living, breathing, perennial omnipresent subject. It has more lives than a cat. It will not be smothered. It cannot be killed by eloquence or logic, by ridicule or silence. Every year it rises, Phoenix-like, from its ashes, and confronts the politicians who have pushed it into the depths of obscurity at the preceding session of the legislature. It has come to stay, and like the poor, will be always with us."

Thus speaks the Canandaigua "Journal;" thus do we speak, and thus will continue to speak all lovers of the cause until our blessed country is known throughout the round globe for the excellence of its "sand-papered" highways."

DRIED VEGETABLES.

The drying of vegetables in a manner similar to the way fruit is dried, is a new and peculiar industry recently developed in Santa Clara county, California. Potatoes, carrots and onions seem to form the staple product. The vegetables are sliced, then slightly treated with sulphur fumes, as an antiseptic and to retain their fresh color, and then dried in evaporators. It requires six or seven pounds of fresh potatoes, nine of carrots, and twenty of onions to make one pound of dried product. There is a good demand for dried vegetables, especially in the mining regions where fresh vegetables cannot be obtained, and they seem to be preferred to the canned product. The experiment so far has proven successful.—Irrigation Age.

IN PHILADELPHIA.

First Citizen of Philadelphia—He's a poor man again.

Second Citizen of Philadelphia—Do you mean to say that he has walked through everything his father left him?—Detroit Journal.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 220 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

WANTED ANOTHER KIND.

Although the gas-question in this city is really a most serious one, at times, there are things connected with it which are humorous to the extreme. Since the private corporation assumed control of the gas plant, the people have naturally looked for a better article than was furnished under the old regime. A member of the United Gas Improvement Company, who loves a good joke almost as much as he does money, was a guest at the Pen and Pencil Club recently, and under the influence of the jolly surroundings, displayed the following communication which purported to be from a well-known resident of West Philadelphia, living on North Thirty-third Street:

"Gentlemen:—I see by the daily paper that your company is furnishing 'illuminating gas' to the people of Philadelphia. Will you be so kind as to send me a tankful of this, in order that I may discover the whereabouts of the ordinary gas you furnish when lit?"

Very respectfully,

—The Philadelphian.

THAT SETTLED IT.

A story is told of a very popular cavalry officer. He was being tried for drunkenness, and among other witnesses was his Irish soldier-servant. The court, anxious to give the officer every chance, put several questions to this witness with a view of eliciting any facts that might be in his master's favor. When the Irishman said that his master, on going to bed, had expressed a wish to be called early, the court was distinctly pleased.

A man who gave special instructions to be called early, could not—they argued to themselves—have been drunk. Hoping to get favorable particulars, they put a further question.

"And why did Major—wish to be called early?"

Then, "Faith! an' he tould me it was because he was to be queen of the May," came the answer.

That settled it.—Tid Bits.

IVIED WALLS.

Contrary to the popular belief, the growth of ivy on the walls of houses promote their dryness, as the tiny roots of the ivy absorb every particle of moisture from wood, brick or stone, in the effort to obtain sustenance from so unpromising material. Its heavy foliage holds the water when it rains, and conducts it by means of its multitudinous and ramifying branches from point to point, till it reaches the ground. Thus does science explode, one after another, the misconceptions of ignorance and prejudice.

The sale of a horse in Kentucky for \$60,000 raises a doubt concerning the coming of a horseless age. There is, as usual, room at the top.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

The J. W. Miller Co., Freeport, Ill. Illustrated catalogue of thoroughbred poultry. Price, 15 cents.

Harrison's Nurseries, Berlin, Md. Nursery catalogue. Specialties—choice peach, plum and apple-trees, strawberry and raspberry plants and asparagus-roots.

Des Moines Incubator Co., Des Moines, Iowa. Illustrated catalogue of incubators, brooders, green bone-cutters, egg-testers, etc.

W. C. Bahcock, Bridgman, Mich. Descriptive catalogue of the Hillside nursery and fruit-farm.

Sunset Seed and Plant Co., San Francisco, Cal. Catalogue of bulbs, seeds, plants, trees, palms and every garden need.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

DISEASES OF SWINE. Written as a text-book for the veterinary surgeon, student and swine-grower. By D. McIntosh, Professor of veterinary science in the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

A FREE FARM

of the best quality. Rich soil. On Railroad. Streams and Lakes. Coal. Big crops. Your last chance to secure a Government free homestead of 160 acres. Also rich, low-priced lands in

North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

LOOK THIS UP. It will pay you. For free maps and descriptive books write to

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Mention this paper.

POTATOES \$1.50 a Bbl.

Largest Seed POTATO growers in America. The "Rural New-Yorker" gives Salzer's Early Wisconsin a yield of 780 bushels per acre. Prices dirt cheap. Our great Seed Book, 11 Farm Seed Samples, worth \$10 to get a start, for 10c. postage. JOHN A. SALZER SEED CO., LaCrosse, Wis.



(Trade Mark)

CURES RHEUMATISM

AND MANY OTHER DISEASES.

People Who Have Been Cured Say This, and If You are Suffering and Use "5 DROPS" You Will Say It Cures Too.

WHAT ONE GRATEFUL PATIENT WRITES.

Dear Sirs:—About a year ago I had a shock, and my right limb got cold and numb, and quite painful, and there seemed to be but little circulation. After taking "5 DROPS" six weeks there was a creeping sensation, and immediately I found that both limbs were alike warm. I cannot say enough for the great good "5 DROPS" has done for me. I would not be placed back where I was eight weeks ago for any amount of money. I am determined that others shall have the benefit of "5 DROPS."

ASCTNEYVILLE, VT., October 15, 1897.

J. H. SWART.

A LETTER FROM A LADY WHO WAS CURED.

Gentlemen:—I feel as I ought to return my thanks to you for what your medicine has done for me. I have been a great sufferer ever since the first part of May last. I was helpless so I could not even dress myself. My brother brought me a bottle of your medicine, and I received relief from the first dose. Everyone around here, who knows about my case, think your remedy truly wonderful. I will always recommend your medicine, and do all I can to get those who suffer to use it.

MIDDLEVILLE, MICH., November 15, 1897.

MRS. ALICE MCNEE.

HERE IS A MAN WHO GAVE "5 DROPS" A TRIAL.

Gentlemen:—As I have given your "5 DROPS" for Rheumatism a trial and found them just as recommended, I hasten to express my gratitude. I was so crippled I could not walk, and in constant pain. Commenced using "5 DROPS" about the 1st of November, and can now walk erect. Every body that sees me to-day, and saw me ten days ago, say it is wonderful. I cannot speak too highly of the remedy.

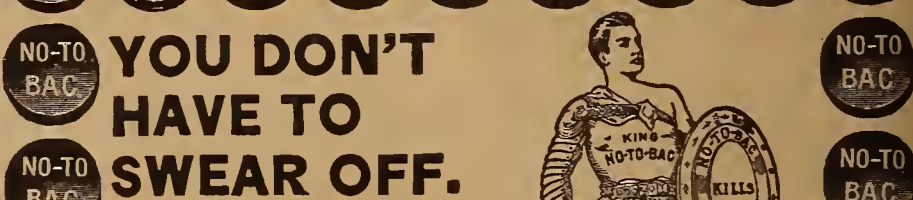
CURLEW, IOWA, November 20, 1897.

W. W. A. HENES.

"5 DROPS" cures Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Dyspepsia, Backache, Asthma, Hay Fever, Catarrh, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Nervous and Neuralgic Headaches, Earache, Toothache, Heart Weakness, Croup, Swelling, La Grippe, Malaria, Creeping Numbness.

FOR 30 DAYS LONGER to enable sufferers to give "5 DROPS" at least a trial, we will send a sample bottle, prepaid by mail, for 25 cents. A sample bottle will convince you. Also, large bottles (300 doses) \$1.00, 3 bottles for \$2.50. Not sold by druggists, only by us and our agents. Agents wanted in new territory. Write us to-day.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 167-169 Dearborn St., CHICAGO, ILL.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO SWEAR OFF.

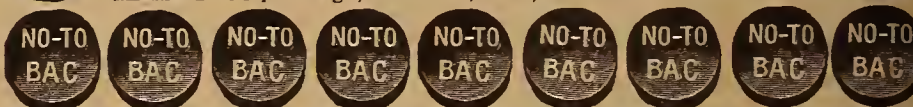
The natural way to stop tobacco is to get a distaste for it. Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away and go on suffering from nervous troubles that make strong men weak, impotent and unable to do the right thing at the right time, all because the blood is tobacco poisoned.

No-To-Bac makes it easy to stop this brain-weakening, nerve-ruining tobacco disease. You run no risk for your own druggist will sell, under guarantee.

NO-TO-BAC GUARANTEED TOBACCO CURE

We urge you to test No-To-Bac. Do it to-day! Over a million boxes sold in two years and 300,000 cures tell the story of merit. No-To-Bac will not only kill the desire for tobacco, eliminate nicotine and steady the nerves, but because of its great medicinal qualities it will make the blood pure and rich, tingling with new life and energy. Gloomy days will be gone, the sunshine will be brighter, the old man in feeling made young again—and happy.

DRUGGIST'S GUARANTEE. Any druggist is authorized to sell No-To-Bac under absolute guarantee to cure. Our written guarantee, free sample of No-To-Bac, Booklet called "Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away" mailed free. Address THE STERLING REMEDY CO., Chicago, Montreal, Can., New York.



CASCARETS candy cathartic cure constipation. Purely vegetable, smooth and easy, sold by druggists everywhere, guaranteed to cure. Only 10c.

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RHEUMATISM

Permanently cured by using DR. WHITEHALL'S RHEUMATIC CURE. The sorest and the best. Sample sent free on mention of this publication. THE DR. WHITEHALL MEGRIMINE CO., South Bend Indiana.

THIS MAY INTEREST YOU.

If you have lame back, cannot retain urine and feel poorly generally, you have kidney trouble. Some get well and others die. If you would get well our pamphlet will help you. It is free. Write THE TAYLOR CHEMICAL CO., 128 East Ninth Street, Dept. E, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

CATARRH CURED. Send 40 cts. to J. W. Buchanan, M.D., Smithville, Ohio, and you will receive by mail one month's treatment. Use it one week, if no change send it back and your money will be returned. This offer to introduce it.

THE YANKEE FIRE-KINDLER Builds 100 Fires with 3c. of fuel. No smoking. No soot. 3 years. Greatest Seller for Agents ever invented. Sample with terms prepaid, 10c. YANKEE KINDLER CO., GLENY, ILL. 37, Box 3.

CUT PAPER PATTERNS.

Our Latest Catalogue of CUT PAPER PATTERNS of up-to-date styles for Fall and Winter Dresses sent free upon request.

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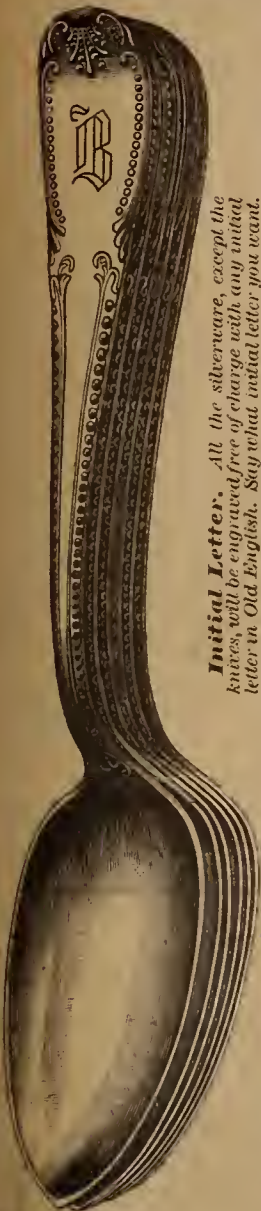
CATARRH ABSOLUTELY CURED with pleasant Home Remedies. Persons suffering with this loathsome, dangerous and disgusting disease should write for free treatment. H. M. ASS'N, 4601 Champlain Ave., Chicago.

NEEDLESS SUFFERING FROM HEADACHE Quickly cured. Package sent by mail. 10c. Known post-paid by mail. 10c. Address ANTHONY REMEDY CO., Dept. A, Hempstead, N.Y.

MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS.

FINE SILVERWARE FREE

We absolutely guarantee every piece of this silverware to be as described and to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.



Initial Letter. All the silverware, except the knives, will be engraved free of charge with any initial letter in Old English. Say what initial letter you want.

This silverware can be used in cooking, eating and medicines the same as solid silver. It will not, cannot corrode or rust. Teaspoons of equal merit are sold in jewelry-stores for \$1.50 or more a set; but because we buy direct from the manufacturers in enormous quantities, and because we do not make any profit on this silverware (subscriptions and clubs are all we want), we furnish it at a great bargain. In beauty and finish it is perfect, and for daily use, year after year, there is nothing better. The base of this ware is solid nickel-silver, which is silver color through and through, and will last a lifetime. This base is then given an EXTRA plate of pure coin-silver.

GRAND SPECIAL OFFERS

- This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Teaspoons for 75 Cents.
- This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Tablespoons for \$1.25.
- This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Forks for \$1.00.
- This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Knives for \$2.00.
- This Paper 1 year and both Sugar-shell and Butter-knife, 50c.

When ordered at one time and to one address, we will send the complete set of silverware, 26 pieces in all, and this paper FIVE years, for FIVE DOLLARS. (This offer can count as ONE yearly subscription only in a club.)

FREE FOR CLUBS....

- Set of 6 Teaspoons given for a club of FOUR.
- Set of 6 Forks given for a club of FIVE.
- Set of 6 Tablespoons given for a club of SIX.
- Six Knives for a club of FIVE and \$1.00 cash.
- Sugar-shell (both) given for a club of THREE.

Will Stand Any Test

To test this silverware, use acids or a file. If not found to be well plated with pure coin-silver and absolutely white as silver through and through, and exactly as described in every particular, we will refund your money and make you a present of the subscription. If returned to us (with 10 cents to help pay cost of the new piece) we will replace any piece of ware damaged in making the test, providing you tell some of your neighbors what the test proved. We hope a great many persons will make the test, for it always leads to many additional orders from the friends and neighbors of the person who made the test.

SPECIAL PRICES AND CLUBBING OFFERS

Below we list a number of premiums which have been fully described in previous numbers of Farm and Fireside, but we did not have space to advertise them in this issue. We guarantee each and every premium to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Standard Cook Book," - 35c. The "Standard Cook Book" given free for a club of two yearly subscribers. | Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Gems from the Poets," - 40c. The "Gems from the Poets" given free for a club of two subscribers. |
| Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and Boys' Silver Watch, \$2.00. This Watch given free for a club of ten yearly subscribers to this paper, or for a club of five yearly subscribers and \$1 cash. | Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Pictures of all Countries," 35c. "Pictures of all Countries" given free for a club of two subscribers. |
| Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and the Oxford Bible, \$2.00. The Bible given free for a club of ten yearly subscribers to this paper, or for a club of five yearly subscribers and \$1 cash. | Special price of Farm and Fireside and picture "Christ Before Pilate," 40c. "Christ Before Pilate" given free for a club of two yearly subscribers. |
| Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and Gold Watch, Guaranteed 15 Years, - \$10. This Gold Watch given for \$5 cash and a club of twenty subscribers. | Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Beauties and Wonders," 35c. "Beauties and Wonders" given free for a club of three yearly subscribers. |
| Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and a Gold Pen, with Pearl Handle, - 90c. Gold Pen, Pearl Handle, given free for a club of six yearly subscribers. | Special price of Farm and Fireside and Girls' Chatelaine Silver Watch, - \$4.00. This Watch given free for a club of twenty yearly subscribers to this paper, or for a club of five yearly subscribers and \$3 cash. |
| Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and "Life of Lincoln," 45c. The "Life of Lincoln" given free for a club of three yearly subscribers. | Special price of Farm and Fireside and "From Manger to Throne," by Talmage, - 75c. This Talmage book given free for a club of three yearly subscribers to this paper. |
| Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Life of Washington," - 45c. The "Life of Washington" given free for a club of three subscribers. | Special price of Farm and Fireside and Shoe Cobbling Outfit, - \$2.00. The Shoe Cobbling Outfit given free for a club of ten subscribers, or for a club of five and \$1 cash. |
| Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and "Samantha Among the Brethren," - 35c. "Samantha Among the Brethren" given free for a club of two yearly subscribers to this paper. | Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and our Giant Almanac, 50c. The Giant Almanac given free for a club of two yearly subscribers. |
| Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and Zell's Encyclopedia, \$1.00. Zell's Encyclopedia given free for a club of five yearly subscribers. | Special price of Farm and Fireside and "People's Atlas," - 40c. "People's Atlas" given free for a club of two yearly subscribers to this paper. |
| Special price of Farm and Fireside and "The Arts of Beauty," - 35c. "The Arts of Beauty" given free for a club of two yearly subscribers. | Special price of Farm and Fireside and "United States History," 40c. The "United States History" given free for a club of two subscribers. |

INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO GET UP CLUBS

We give a premium FREE for sending ONLY ONE other name with your own. Let us illustrate:

A and B are neighbors. If A sends B's subscription with his own, it makes a club of two, which entitles A to his choice of any one of the premiums given free for a club of two—as the Berry-spoon.

Now, a subscriber may accept any offer and the name can be counted in a club. To illustrate:

If, in the above case, A takes the "Dictionary" with

his subscription; he pays 40 cents; if B takes the "Giant Almanac" with his subscription, he pays 50 cents. This makes a club of two. Thus, B gets the "Giant Almanac" as a premium because he pays for it, A gets the "Dictionary" because he pays for it, and, in addition, A gets the Berry-spoon free for getting up the club of two; and so on for other premiums.

Paid-in-advance subscribers may join a club or accept any offer and their time will be advanced one

year. All other yearly subscriptions will be entered for one year from the date we receive the order.

Subscriptions will be sent to one or more persons and the premiums to others, when so ordered.

It is just as cheap for your neighbor to let YOU send his subscription as to send it himself, for no reduction in the prices will be made or allowed. All of the money collected by club-raisers must be sent to us.

The premiums are not sold alone.

PREMIUM No. 180.
ILLUSTRATION
NOT FULL
SIZE.



No Initial
Engraved on Berry-spoon.

FREE FOR A CLUB OF TWO SUBSCRIBERS.

This Berry-spoon has silver-plated handle and gold-plated bowl. It is admirably adapted for serving berries; jelly, salad, ice-cream, canned fruit, etc. It is a fashionable article and makes an exquisite present. The plating is excellent.

Sells in Stores for 75 Cents Each.

We guarantee it to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.

We will send Farm and Fireside One Year and this Berry-spoon for the SPECIAL Price of 50 Cents. (Regular Price, \$1.)

WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION

is an unrivaled high-class magazine of general and home literature. It has over a quarter of a million subscribers. It gives, on an average, 30 pages monthly, each page 11 by 16 inches, and a handsome cover. (The January number has 48 pages.) It is beautifully and profusely illustrated, and printed on fine paper. For A FREE SAMPLE COPY address Woman's Home Companion, Springfield, Ohio.

OUR NEW DICTIONARY	Equal in value to those sold for \$2, but say	\$1.00
THE PEOPLE'S ATLAS	Would be cheap at	1.00
FARM AND FIRESIDE One Year,		.50
WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION One Year,	Better than the magazines costing	1.00
Total value of all 4		\$3.50

To introduce our beautiful magazine we will send BOTH Woman's Home Companion and Farm and Fireside one year and the TWO premiums for the special price of One Dollar.

WE GIVE ALL 4 FOR \$1.

When this offer is accepted it may be counted as ONE name in a club.

In this offer any one who does not want the above-named premiums may choose substitutes from the following: No. 55, "Samantha Among the Brethren;" No. 34, "Samantha at Saratoga;" No. 155, "Giant Almanac;" No. 7, "Life of Washington;" No. 15, "Life of Lincoln;" No. 63, "Arts of Beauty;" No. 30, "Beauties and Wonders;" No. 180, Berry-spoon; No. 100, "Christ Before Pilate;" No. 26, "Gems From the Poets;" No. 28, "United States History." In this "All 4 for \$1" offer no more than two premiums can be taken.

Any of the above offers may be accepted and the name can be counted in a club. Positively no reduction will be made or allowed from the above special prices. No commission allowed.

Postage paid by us in each case.

For any article on this page order by the premium number and address

FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

Bushels of Fun...

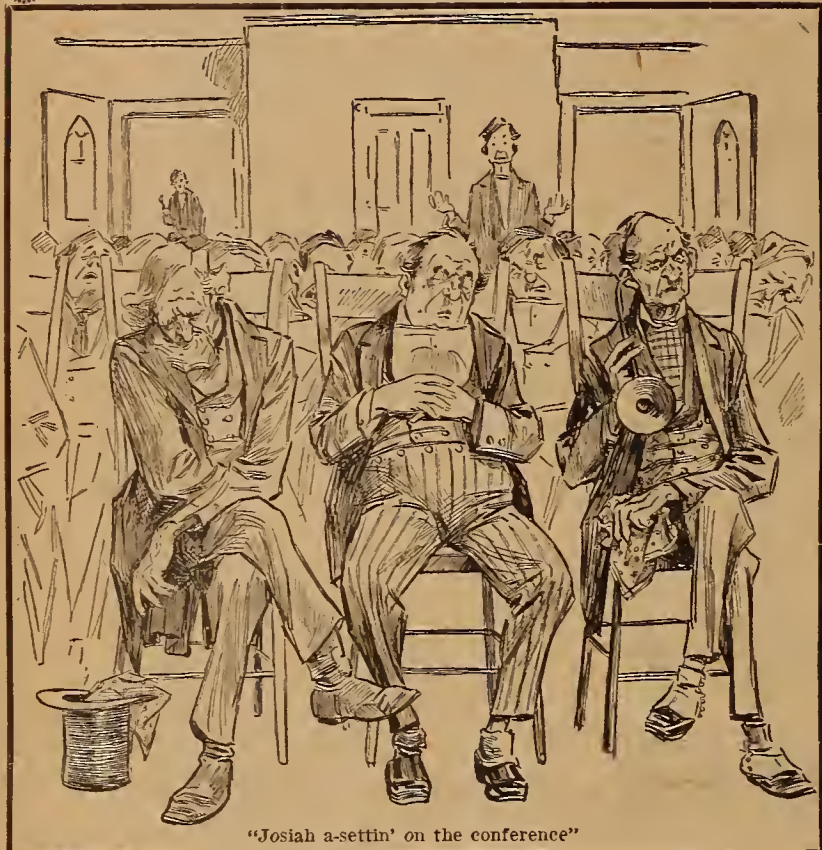
IN "SAMANTHA AMONG THE BRETHREN,"

By JOSIAH ALLEN'S WIFE

There is nothing funnier than "Samantha Among the Brethren." The author sets out to exhibit the comic side of the argument against women "settin' on the conference," and by inference and comical situations she does it most effectively. Samantha's gossip about the "doin's" of Josiah and her neighbors and their tribulations in raising money with which to paper and support the "meetin'-house" are laughable to the extreme.

Order by Premium No. 55

OVER 100,000 COPIES WERE SOLD BY AGENTS FOR \$2.50 EACH



"Josiah a-settin' on the conference"

OVER
SIXTY
COMIC
PICTURES

Similar to the four shown
on this page.



"Oh! argue and dispute with a dyin' man!"

Makes You Laugh Till Your Sides Ache

When you want a cure for the blues, read a few chapters in "Samantha Among the Brethren." When you want to entertain the children or your visitors, read to them out of "Samantha Among the Brethren." When you want something to make you laugh and ha-ha, and laugh so hard that your sides ache, read "Samantha Among the Brethren"—the greatest laugh-maker of them all.

FREE "Samantha Among the Brethren" Given Free for a Club FREE
of Two Yearly Subscribers to Farm and Fireside

If you send ONE other subscription with your own it makes a club of TWO, which entitles you to a premium FREE. RENEWALS and new names, including a club-raiser's own subscription, can be counted in a club.

READ IT ALOUD TO THE FAMILY

And Hear the Peals of Hearty Laughter

"Samantha Among the Brethren" is a splendid book for reading aloud to the family on winter evenings. It provokes continuous peals of hearty laughter and merry comment from every member of the family. The author draws many a good moral between laughs.

Comic illustrations are the fun-makers for the eyes, and are enjoyed alike by the wise man and by the child who cannot even read. The amusement afforded by simply turning the leaves and looking at the pictures in this book is worth more than what we ask for it and a year's subscription.

BISHOP JOHN P. NEWMAN said, in speaking of the book: "It is irresistibly humorous and beautiful. The best of all that has come from the pen of 'Josiah Allen's Wife.'"



"I want 'em to ketch me!"

FRANCES E. WILLARD says: "Modern fiction has not furnished a more thoroughly individual character than 'Josiah Allen's Wife.' She will long be remembered, honored, laughed and cried over. Josiah Allen's Wife is a woman, wit, philanthropist and statesman, all in one."



"Wedlock's peaceful repose" (Illustration reduced size)

Funniest Books Ever Written

Over 200,000 Copies Were Sold by Agents for \$2.50 Each

Most people think the books written by "Josiah Allen's Wife" are the funniest books ever written. We ourselves now own and print two of her best books. "Samantha Among the Brethren," as described above, is the new book. We first offered it last September and have already received an avalanche of orders, so anxious were people to get it. "Samantha at Saratoga" is the book we offered last year. We now have a new edition of this popular book, with over 100 comic pictures. Over 100,000 copies of each of these two books, in fine binding, were sold by agents for \$2.50 a copy. Our edition of the book contains every word and picture in the \$2.50 edition. In order to boom subscriptions we make the following special low prices: We will send the

Farm and Fireside one year and "Samantha Among the Brethren" for 35 cents.

Farm and Fireside one year and "Samantha at Saratoga" for 35 cents.

Any offer may be accepted and the name can be counted in a club. Positively no reduction will be made or allowed from the prices named above. No commission allowed.

Postage paid by
us in each case.

Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

Gigantic Dictionary Bargain

Our new dictionary will be ready for delivery soon. Its preparation was a tremendous undertaking, but as the finished book nears completion, we are more positive than ever that it will be a far better dictionary than those now selling in stores for \$2.00 or more a copy. It will be an unexcelled dictionary for Students, Teachers, Farmers, Lawyers, Doctors, Merchants, Clerks, Printers, Electricians, Stenographers, Mechanics, Miners, Manufacturers, Railroaders, Artists, and followers of other occupations. We give this grand dictionary

FREE for a Club of TWO. Special Price, with Farm and Fireside One Year, 40c.

This Dictionary was compiled according to the latest and best authorities in England and America. It was prepared with the especial view of meeting the wants of students and home use better than any other dictionary.

Even if you have an old dictionary, you need ours, because it is the very latest, containing all the new words made necessary by recent discoveries and inventions in science, mechanics and travel; as, "Linotype," a type-setting machine; "Antitoxin," a cure for diphtheria; "Klondiker," a traveler bound for Alaska, etc. It contains over

30,000 WORDS

PROPERLY PRONOUNCED
CORRECTLY SPELLED
CLEARLY DEFINED

1,000 PICTURES

Which are Larger, Newer and
Better than those Found in Dic-
tionaries Selling in Stores for \$2.00

500 PAGES

EACH PAGE BEING ABOUT
SIX INCHES WIDE BY
EIGHT INCHES LONG

TO READ without a clear understanding of the meaning of all words is a bad habit which parents should not allow; therefore, a copy of our new Dictionary should be on every reading-table. It explicitly defines over 30,000 words.

For a boy or girl nowadays to write a letter containing misspelled words should make them blush with shame; so our new Dictionary should be on every writing-table.

It is a duty to speak one's language correctly. Our new dictionary properly pronounces over 30,000 words.

A COMPLETE WORK

It is a fact that most speakers and writers on general subjects use less than 1,000 different words in their speeches and books (not counting proper names). Therefore, since our Dictionary defines over 30,000 words, it really gives a great many more words than are likely to be run across by students and general readers.

This new Dictionary spells, pronounces and defines correctly over 30,000 words. It is illustrated with over 1,000 engravings, which are larger, newer and better than those found in dictionaries selling in stores for Two Dollars or more. It contains over 500 pages, each page being about 6x8 inches.

Premium No. 42

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.



SPECIMEN PAGE OF ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE DICTIONARY

A \$2 DICTIONARY FOR 40 CENTS

In spelling and pronunciation, in definitions and illustrations, in completeness and reliability, this Dictionary is equal in value to any \$2 Dictionary sold in stores. However, in accordance with our well-known policy of giving great value for very little money, we make the following remarkably low offer: We will send

Farm and Fireside One Year and Our New Dictionary for the Special Price of 40 Cents. (Regular Price, 75 Cents.)

The above offer may be accepted and the name can be counted in a club. Positively no reduction will be made or allowed from the prices named above. No commission allowed.

SEE "INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO GET UP CLUBS" ON PAGE 17 OF THIS PAPER

Postage paid by
us in each case.

Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

10 to 20 Bushels

Patent Applied for.

More per Acre

"Received the Success Anti-Clog Weeder all right and have sold all of them. They have given good satisfaction. I have sold them in several different towns so have them well advertised. I want lots of territory for next year."



First order from each town secures special price and agency.

Full description and all particulars mailed upon request; give name of county.

D. Y. HALLOCK & SON, Box 804, YORK, PA.

Get 10 to 20 bushels more oats or wheat per acre by right cultivation. Begin right by preparing the ground for sowing with the Success Anti-Clog Weeder and Cultivator. When the grain comes up, cultivate it—as you would corn—with the Weeder. Keeps the surface of the ground mellow, kills the weeds just starting. Better than an extra load of fertilizer. The only tool that can be used to cultivate grain without injuring it. The best weeding machine for all crops ever invented.

Hallock's SUCCESS ANTI-CLOG WEEDER

(Beware of imitations)

is just what thousands of farmers are seeking—what every farmer should have. Has 39 flat, pliant spring-steel teeth that weeds can't clog. Teeth are removable and warranted for one year. Handles and shafts adjustable. Angle-steel frame—least weight, greatest strength.

"I have given the Success Anti-Clog Weeder a thorough trial and of all tools for weeding and cultivating, it is ahead! I put in my oats with it, and my son says he can do more and better work harrowing sod grass with it than he can with any spring tooth harrow made. The weeder leaves the ground thoroughly pulverized. A neighbor worked 13 acres of corn with it in 8 hours, and says it's the best cultivator he ever saw."

C. N. WEST, Hollister, Pa.

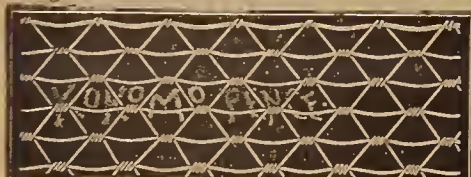
"Have tried the Success Anti-Clog Weeder on oats and it worked fine."

JACOB F. FORNEY, Calcium, Pa.

"I received three Success Anti-Clog Weeders on Thursday last and all are sold. I think I have sold all the weeders that have been sold in this section this Spring, and there are three or four agents here for other weeders."

F. C. LANGWORTHY, Brookfield, N. Y.

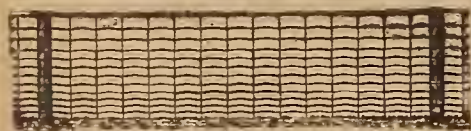
GEO. HOWES, Moretown, Vt.



COIL SPRING FENCE!
YOU CAN MAKE
100 RODS IN 2 DAYS FOR \$20.30.
CATALOGUE FREE. KOKOMO FENCE MACHINE CO.,
12 NORTH ST. KOKOMO, IND., U. S. A.



Cabled Field and Hog Fence,
24 to 58 inches high; Steel Web Picket Lawn Fence; Poultry, Garden and Rabbit Fence; Steel Gates, Steel Posts and Steel Rails; Tree, Flower and Tomato Guards; Steel Wire Fence Board, etc. Catalogue free. DEKALB FENCE CO., 38 High St., DeKalb, Ill.



The Locomotive Engineer
must have an eye out for signals. One need not watch the thermometer on account of his Page Fence. Rain or shine, fever heat or zero weather, "the coil is in it," and keeps it tight.
PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., Adrian, Mich.



WOVEN WIRE FENCE
With our Duplex Automatic Machine you can make a genuine Rabbit-Proof fence, and one that is also Horse-high and Bull-strong for a Hog fence for 12c. and a Stock or Chicken fence for 15c. a rod. Flat, Coiled Spring and Barbed wire to farmers at wholesale prices. Catalogue free. KITSUMMAN BROTHERS, Box 255, Ridgerville, Indiana.



QUAKER CITY GRINDING MILL
For CORN and COBS, FEED & TABLE MEAL. Improved for '97-'98. Send for all mills advertised. Keep the best—return all others.
A. W. STRAUB & CO.
Philadelphia, Pa. & Chicago, Ill.
We handle everything wanted at Chicago office, 4 S. Canal Street.



GOODHUE
We want responsible Agents
Write for what you want and our illustrated Catalogue—FREE.
Calvanized Steel
PUMPING AND POWER MILLS
are acknowledged to be the most powerful and durable; they are self-oiling, direct or hack-gear, and have the most perfect governor made. We make Ensilage and Fodder Cutters, Corn Huskers, Corn Shellers, Feed Grinders, Wood Saws, Sweep Powers, Tread Powers, Hay Loaders—full line of anything the farmer needs.
APPLETON MFG. CO.
9 Fargo Street, BATAVIA, ILL.

FLORIDA THE LAKE HANCOCK COLONY.
Hancock, Polk County, Florida.
On main line Plant System Railway
This tract of 10,000 acres extends from the railroad south to Lake Hancock, one of the most beautiful lakes in Florida, being about five miles long and two miles wide—abounding in choicest fish and the paradise of duck hunters. On each side of a grand boulevard, 130 feet wide, from the depot to Lake Hancock, are farms of twenty acres each, and all the balance of the tract forty acre farms. These lands are beautifully located, being about 200 feet above the sea level and sloping gently south to the Lake. The soil is loamy, and will raise any kind of fruits, grapes, nuts, vegetables, tobacco, berries, as well as oranges, lemons and other semi-tropical fruits. **Town Site.**—Lots one acre each—no less—\$25 each, cash. **Magnolia Ave.**—130 ft. wide—20 acre farms, \$10 to \$20 per acre; 40 acre tracts, \$5 to \$10 per acre; 1/4 cash, balance 1, 2 and 3 years. Send for maps and general information. International Homestead Co., 306 Marquette Bldg., Chicago, Ill., or 308 Franklin St., Tampa, Fla.

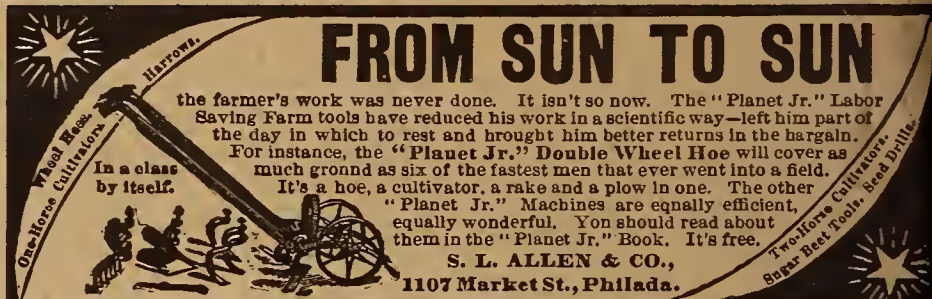
"AMONG THE OZARKS"
The Land of Big Red Apples, is an attractive and interesting book, handsomely illustrated with views of South Missouri. It pertains to fruit-raising in that GREAT FRUIT BELT OF AMERICA, the southern slope of the Ozarks, and will prove of great value not only to fruit-growers, but to every farmer and homeseeker looking for a farm and a home. Mailed free. Address, J. E. LOCKWOOD, Kansas City, Mo.



SEEDER
Is simple, strong and durable, sows all kinds of seeds perfectly even, saves two thirds labor, one eighth of seed, 30 years experience (sold cheap), price and circulars free. Add. CHAMPION SEEDER CO., Urbana, Ind.

VIRGINIA FARMS FOR SALE.
Large and small. Free Catalogue.
R. B. CHAFFIN & CO. (Inc.), Richmond, Va.

WOOD SAWING MACHINES
"SMALLEY" and "BATTLE CREEK" patterns. Self and hand-feed Drag Saws, 20 to 36 inch Circular Machines, Bolting Mills and Horse Powers.
SMALLEY MFG. CO., Manitowoc, Wis.



FROM SUN TO SUN
the farmer's work was never done. It isn't so now. The "Planet Jr." Labor Saving Farm tools have reduced his work in a scientific way—left him part of the day in which to rest and brought him better returns in the bargain. For instance, the "Planet Jr." Double Wheel Hoe will cover as much ground as six of the fastest men that ever went into a field. It's a hoe, a cultivator, a rake and a plow in one. The other "Planet Jr." Machines are equally efficient, equally wonderful. You should read about them in the "Planet Jr." Book. It's free.
S. L. ALLEN & CO.,
1107 Market St., Philada.

WE SELL DIRECT TO FARMERS.
FARMERS BE WISE, DEAL WITH US AND SAVE 40 PER CT. ON YOUR FERTILIZERS.
You Save Salesman's Expenses and Agent's Profit.
Analysis. Phos. Acid, Ammonia, Actual Potash, per cent. per cent. per cent.
Pure Raw Bone Meal..... 22 to 25 4 to 5 \$22.00 per ton
Four Fold Fertilizer..... 9 to 10 2 to 3 16.00 "
Smoky City "..... 8 to 10 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 15.00 "
Big Bonanza "..... 9 to 10 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 20.00 "
Potato Special "..... 9 to 10 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 23.00 "
Tobacco Special "..... 11 to 12 3 to 4 21.00 "
Bone and Meat..... 13 to 15 4 to 5 18.00 "
For samples and pamphlet, write WALKER STRATMAN & CO., Herr's Island, Pittsburg, Pa.

FARMERS
Warranted the Most Practical Machine Made
Crew, Cable & Hand Power STUMP PULLERS
3 Styles 9 Sizes, \$25 to \$150
HANDY FARM WAGONS
TILE DITCHER
Cuts 100 rods per day.
BEST CORN HARVESTER
MADE. Cats. Free
H. L. Bennett & Co.
WESTERVILLE, O.

CIDER PRESS
The only press awarded medal and diploma at World's Fair.
HYDRAULIC
Send for free catalogue and full particulars.
HYDRAULIC PRESS MFG. CO.
No. 8 Main St., Mt. Gilead, Ohio

ICE PLOWS
\$17
YOU SEND No Money UNTIL GOODS ARRIVE!
Disc Harrows, Lever Harrows, 11-foot Seeders, Cultivators, Wagons.
Write for Delivery Prices and Catalogue.
EMPIRE MFG. CO.,
75 River Street, ROCK FALLS, ILLINOIS.

ICE PLOWS
\$16.50. Circulars free.
H. PRAY, Clove, N. Y.

GO INTO BUSINESS
for yourself and make money drilling wells. People must have water, and will always pay liberally for good service of this kind. For all kinds of drilling—water, gas or oil you will find **STAR DRILLING MACHINES** to be the most rapid and most durable made. Are made on new and improved lines, and embody in their construction the best material and workmanship procurable. Either steam or horse power, and made in 8 sizes. **Star Drilling Machine Co.**
Catalog free on application. AKRON, O. or ST. LOUIS, Mo.

NOW READY
Farm and Fireside GIANT ALMANAC
AND
Annual Reference Book
1898
An Absolutely Reliable Authority
On Political, Agricultural, Commercial, Educational, Financial, Mining, Religious, Historical, Official, Astronomical, and Miscellaneous Subjects and Statistics in General.
UP TO DATE 450 PAGES
Miniature cut of the Almanac. Actual size of each page, 5 1/2 x 7 1/4 inches.
Our new 450-page Giant Almanac is now ready for delivery. It is the best work of the kind ever issued. It ought to be in every home. We guarantee it to give entire satisfaction or money refunded. It is given free for a club of TWO yearly subscriptions. Price, with Farm and Fireside one year, 50 cents.

FARM & FIRESIDE

VOL. XXI. NO. 9.

FEBRUARY 1, 1898.

TERMS 50 CENTS A YEAR.
24 NUMBERS.

INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO GET UP CLUBS

We give a premium FREE for sending ONLY ONE other name with your own. Let us illustrate:

A and B are neighbors. If A sends B's subscription with his own, it makes a club of two, which entitles A to his choice of any one of the premiums given free for a club of two—as the Berry-spoon.

Now, a subscriber may accept any offer and the name

can be counted in a club. To illustrate:

If, in the above case, A takes the Teaspoons with his subscription, he pays 75 cents; if B takes the "Cook Book" with his subscription, he pays 35 cents. This makes a club of two. Thus, B gets the "Cook Book" as a premium because he pays for it, A gets the Teaspoons because he pays for them, and,

in addition, A gets the Berry-spoon free for getting up the club of two; and so on for other premiums and larger clubs, as the case may be.

It is just as cheap for your neighbor to let YOU send his subscription as to send it himself, for all of the money collected by club-raisers must be sent to us.

The premiums are not sold alone.

FINE SILVERWARE FREE Special Prices and Clubbing Offers

We absolutely guarantee every piece of this silverware to be as described and to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.

This silverware can be used in cooking, eating and medicines the same as solid silver. It will not, cannot corrode or rust. Teaspoons of equal merit are sold in jewelry-stores for \$1.50 or more a set; but because we buy direct from the manufacturers in enormous quantities, and because we do not make any profit on this silverware (subscriptions and clubs are all we want), we furnish it at a great bargain. In beauty and finish it is perfect, and for daily use, year after year, there is nothing better. The base of this ware is solid nickel-silver, which is silver color through and through, and will last a lifetime. This base is then given an EXTRA plate of pure coin-silver.

GRAND SPECIAL OFFERS

This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Teaspoons for 75 Cents.
This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Forks for \$1.00.
This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Tablespoons for \$1.25.
This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Knives for \$2.00.
This Paper 1 year and both Sugar-shell and Butter-knife, 50c.

When ordered at one time and to one address, we will send the complete set of silverware, 26 pieces in all, and this paper FIVE years, for FIVE DOLLARS. (This offer can count as ONE yearly subscription only in a club.)

FREE FOR CLUBS....

Set of 6 Teaspoons given for a club of FOUR.
Set of 6 Forks given for a club of FIVE.
Set of 6 Tablespoons given for a club of SIX.
Six Knives given for a club of FIVE and \$1.00.
Sugar-shell (both) given for a club of THREE.

Will Stand Any Test.

To test this silverware, use acids or a file. If not found to be well plated with pure coin-silver and absolutely white as silver through and through, and exactly as described in every particular, we will refund your money and make you a present of the subscription. If returned to us (with 10 cents to help pay cost of the new piece) we will replace any piece of ware damaged in making the test, providing you tell some of your neighbors what the test proved. We hope a great many persons will make the test, for it always leads to many additional orders from the friends and neighbors of the person who made the test.

Below we list a number of premiums which have been fully described in previous numbers of Farm and Fireside, but we did not have space to advertise them this issue. We guarantee each and every premium to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.

Our catalogue describing them in full will be sent FREE to any one.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Standard Cook Book," - 35c.
"Standard Cook Book" given free for a club of two yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and Boys' Silver Watch, \$2.00
This Watch given free for a club of ten yearly subscribers to this paper, or for a club of five yearly subscribers and \$1 cash.

Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and the Oxford Bible, \$2.00
The Bible given free for a club of ten yearly subscribers to this paper, or for a club of five yearly subscribers and \$1 cash.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and Snap Shot Camera, - \$1.00
This Camera given free for a club of five yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and a Gold Pen, with Pearl Handle, - 90c.
Gold Pen, Pearl Handle, given free for a club of six yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside One Year and "Life of Lincoln," 45c.
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A Copy of a \$100,000 Painting
A Sermon in a Picture ❖ ❖ ❖

We lead the world in selling lifelike copies of great religious paintings. We now offer "The Prodigal Son." At a tremendous cost we have had this masterpiece of one of the great art masters of this century reproduced in all its beauty and richness of color. It is worthy of an expensive frame, and should be on the walls of every Christian's home. It is a sermon which reaches the soul through the eyes. We give it FREE for a club of two yearly subscribers.



Miniature cut of the Picture. Actual size is 12 inches wide and 26 inches long.

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This picture was painted in France, in 1866-67, and was first shown at the Exhibition in Paris, in 1868. Later it was shown in all the art centers of Europe. It created so much interest and attention that it was finally decided to bring it to America. In this country great crowds of people went to see the picture. A \$100,000 worth of insurance was carried on it. A. T. Stewart, the great New York merchant, offered \$50,000 in cash for it, but the owners would not sell. Our copy is an exact reproduction of the original, showing all the colors true to life. The above is a miniature cut of the picture, but being printed from a coarse engraving and on cheap paper it gives only a mere hint of the beauty of our picture, in the original colors, on heavy paper; size 12 by 26 inches.

This picture was painted by Louis Dubufe. His father was a painter, and early in life the boy showed especial talent in illustrating the parables of the Bible. The parable of "The Prodigal Son"—Luke XV:11-32—impressed him strongest. His painting shows the three scenes: First, the revelry of the prodigal son in his search for pleasure; second, his degradation when his money was gone and he was forced to feed swine for a living; third, the soul-stirring scene showing the return of the prodigal son to his father's house, and the beauty of Christian forgiveness exemplified by the father's willingness to restore to his household his wayward son. You will better understand your pastor's next sermon on "The Prodigal Son" after you own this picture.

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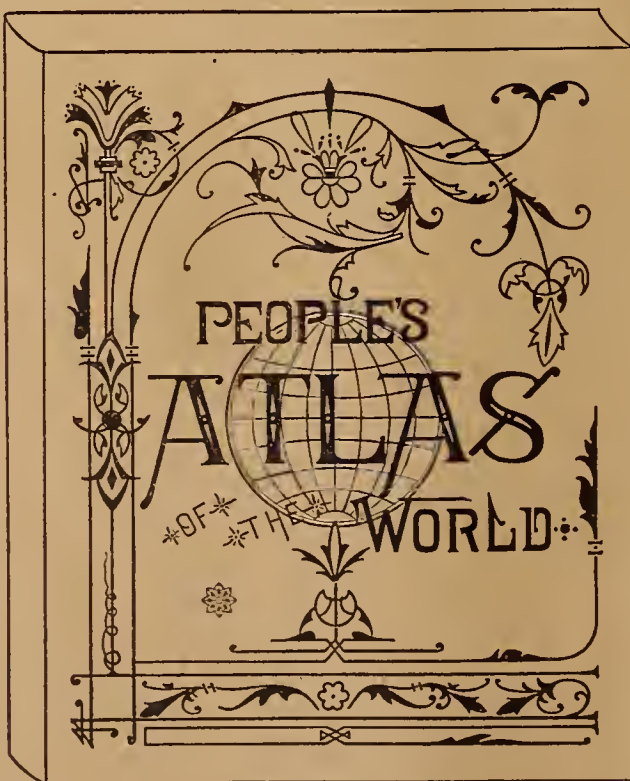
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FREE The People's Atlas given free as a premium for a club of two yearly subscribers to Farm and Fireside.

We will send Farm and Fireside one year and People's Atlas for the Special price of

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FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

No Reduction In Prices To Any One

Several club-raisers have written us recently that they occasionally find a subscriber whose time is about out, but refuses to give the renewal to the club-raiser in hopes that if he does not send promptly the publishers will offer him some extra inducements or lower prices to renew. In this the subscribers are entirely mistaken, for the following reason:

Because we made contracts last summer with the manufacturers to furnish us all of our printing and book papers at certain definite prices THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, we were enabled to figure out in advance the EXACT AND LOWEST PRICES POSSIBLE at which we could furnish our premiums to subscribers. We therefore published in Farm and Fireside, early last fall, the LOWEST PRICES on our various premiums and yearly subscription offers for the coming year.

We said then, and have repeated it in every issue since, that POSITIVELY NO REDUCTION WOULD BE MADE OR ALLOWED from those prices, but from reports sent in by club-raisers it seems that some of our subscribers have overlooked this important statement, so we repeat it in this conspicuous place, that ALL may know that NO REDUCTION IN THE PRICE OF OUR PREMIUM OFFERS WILL BE MADE OR ALLOWED.

We are offering some of the best bargains known in the history of printing. We are thus doing everything in our power to keep our old friends. We hope they will all renew and induce their friends to join them in a club, but since we are already doing our level best, it might as well be distinctly understood here and now that NO REDUCTION IN THE PRICES WILL BE MADE OR ALLOWED, and that there will be no better time to renew than RIGHT NOW.

We hope the above statement will save club-raisers any further trouble on this point. They are authorized to state most emphatically that NO REDUCTION IN THE PRICES WILL BE MADE OR ALLOWED. It is just as cheap for your neighbor to let you send his subscription as to send it himself, but if you send it with your own it makes a club of two, which entitles you to any one of the premiums offered FREE for a club of two, and so on for larger clubs. Thanking you in advance for your renewals and clubs, we remain

Very truly yours,
Publishers FARM AND FIRESIDE.

certainly become of these islands if their offer is rejected the Senate cannot act too promptly in ratifying the treaty. The recent action of Germany, Russia and England in China, and the critical condition of affairs in the Orient, have undoubtedly strengthened Hawaiian annexation with the United States Senate.

The anti-annexationists have worked industriously among the friends of the beet-sugar industry to get them to petition Congress against annexation on the ground that Hawaiian sugar would seriously retard the development of this new American industry. Objections on this ground have not been well taken.

Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, recently sent to the Senate a statement on this subject, showing that the annual average importation of sugar into the United States for ten years past is a little over \$100,000,000 worth, of which Hawaiian sugar is less than \$10,000,000 worth. His conclusion is that Hawaii cannot seriously compete with the sugar producers in this country. He says, further, that when the Hawaiians consider the possibilities of coffee-growing they will find that they have a monopoly with which no state in the Union can interfere.

It has been shown that the production of sugar on the Islands cannot be much increased, as most of the sugar-lands are already under cultivation. On the other hand, in regard to coffee, Commissioner Thurston says: "The cultivation of coffee is rapidly increasing. It will soon rival sugar in amount and value, as there are large areas of rich but uncultivated land not available for sugar, but peculiarly adapted to coffee. This product is the hope of the country, as it can be produced profitably by farmers with small capital."

AFRAIRS in Cuba seem to have developed into a condition requiring the immediate intervention of the United States. Within the past few months important changes have been made, apparently for the better. Weyler, the butcher, was recalled, and Blanco, a humane general, put in his place. Barbarous methods of warfare were abandoned. All American prisoners were released. The non-combatants collected from the country into the towns were allowed to return home. And recently an attempt was made to establish an autonomous form of government in Cuba. Whatever improvements these changes might have made have been offset by the disastrous effects of Weyler's rule, and the condition of Cuba to-day is worse than it has been at any time since the beginning of the revolution. But for Cuba it is the darkest hour before the dawn. The Cuban patriots wisely refused to make peace on the terms of a new form of government, which is not real home rule. The Spaniards in Havana recently rose against this so-called autonomy. It is acceptable to none. Spain's latest effort to retain Cuba is a flat failure, and she no longer has even a pretext for prolonging the war.

"So long as the scheme of autonomy," says the New York "Sun," "served merely to throw dust in American eyes and to postpone American interposition, it was regarded with cynical and contemptuous indifference by conservatives organized in the Constitutional Union, and by their pretorian guard, the so-called Volunteers of Havana. The moment, however, that the Cuban cabinet proposed to touch the tariff which strangles the island's industries, the conservatives realized that the hour had come to put an end to the autonomist government, and they proceeded to bring about the riot, in the course of which the offices of the autonomist newspapers were wrecked. The prevention of such outrages was impossible, for the reason that the conservatives and volunteers are Spaniards almost to a man, and consequently, the Spanish soldiers cannot be trusted to support Governor-General Blanco in an effort to coerce them."

"It will be for the same reason equally impracticable for the representatives of the Madrid government to protect American citizens, should they be assailed by the mob, which, so far as sentiment is concerned, really has

behind it all the armed forces in Havana. What we are now witnessing in the Cuban capital is but the counterpart of what we beheld in the ten years' war, when the volunteers were masters of the city and the orders of the Spanish authorities were set at naught. It is anarchy, in a word, which virtually reigns in Havana, and our government would be recreant to its duty if it left undefended the lives and property of American citizens, which are there exposed to deadly peril. With the ultimate consequences of placing American war-ships in the harbor of Havana we have nothing to do. It will be the fault of the Spaniards if our determination to rescue our citizens leads to war."

A FEW months ago the railroads of the Central Passenger Association began issuing an interchangeable mileage book. A 1,000-mile book is sold for \$30, with a rebate of \$10 when it is used up, provided the buyer carries out all the terms of the agreement under which the book is sold. In connection with its use there is much red-tape business, such as signing and counter-signing of contracts, coupons, tickets, etc., by traveler, agent and conductor. Buyers of this book are subjected to trouble and delays at stations when making the required exchange of mileage from the book for tickets to their point of destination. The result of the working of this plan is that one class of passengers, with considerable bother, get a rate of two cents a mile.

This whole business should be abolished. It is high time for legislation to give everybody a rate of two cents a mile. There is a bill now before the Ohio legislature providing for a uniform passenger rate of two cents a mile on all railroads in the state. It ought to be passed promptly. A uniform two-cent rate will do away with unfair discrimination. It will increase passenger traffic. And, if the railroads curtail free passes, they will get larger net returns than they do under the present system of rates running from zero to three cents a mile. The average passenger rate a mile on many roads is now less than two cents. The passengers who pay in excess of this rate pay for the transportation of the dead-heads.

THE Lodge immigration bill, which recently passed the Senate by a vote of forty-five to twenty-eight, provides that all immigrants physically capable and over sixteen years of age, shall be able to read or write the English language or some other language; but a person not able to read or write, who is over fifty years of age, and is the parent or grandparent of a qualified immigrant over twenty-one years and capable of supporting such parent or grandparent, may accompany the immigrant, or the parent or grandparent may be sent for and come and join the family of the child or grandchild over twenty-one years of age qualified under the law; and wife or minor child not able to read or write may accompany or be sent for and come to join the husband or parent who is qualified. The act does not apply to Cubans coming to the United States during the continuance of present disorders in Cuba.

The immigrants who will be excluded by this educational test bill are particularly those from Greece, Russia, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Portugal, who have an average illiteracy of nearly forty-eight in one hundred. These countries furnished little immigration in 1889, less than one tenth the total in 1880, but to-day they furnish more than one half. It has been shown that this immigration from southern Europe, which has increased so much in recent years, is largely concentrated in the slums of large cities. Although but a step in immigration restriction, this bill will exclude many thousands of undesirable immigrants.

On the other hand, immigrants from France, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Scandinavia, Finland and the United Kingdom have an average illiteracy of only four and one half in one hundred. Less than five per cent of immigration from these countries will be excluded by the Lodge bill.

WITH THE VANGUARD

FOR a time ratification of the Hawaiian treaty by the Senate, a two-thirds vote being required, seemed to be hanging in the balance. Certain influences, said to be mainly backed by the sugar trust, have been trying to work up a sentiment against annexation throughout the country and have it reflected on Congress by petitions. It is safe to say that a large majority of the people of this country favor the annexation of Hawaii under a territorial form of government, and in view of what would

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Postage-stamps will be received in payment for subscriptions in sums less than one dollar, if for every 25 cents in stamps you add one-cent stamp extra, because we must sell postage-stamps at a loss.

The date on the "yellow label" shows the time to which each subscriber has paid. Thus: Feb 98, means that the subscription is paid up to February, 1898; Mar 98, to March, 1898, and so on.

When money is received, the date will be changed within four weeks, which will answer for a receipt.

When renewing your subscription, do not fail to say it is a renewal. If all our subscribers will do this, a great deal of trouble will be avoided. Also give your name and initials just as now on the yellow address label; don't change it to some other member of the family; if the paper is now coming in your wife's name, sign her name, just as it is on the label, to your letter of renewal. Always name your post-office.

The Advertisers in This Paper.

We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Why Farmers My remarks under this heading in the issue of December 1, 1897, seem to have stirred up a hornets' nest. The secretary of the La Crosse county (Wis.) Agricultural Society, for instance, protests against my views, and says that "the German people are usually accustomed to drinking large quantities of dark, strong coffee, while pork, salted and smoked, and eaten raw or converted into soup, and large quantities of sausage containing an excess of condiments, spices, etc., which go to injure the digestive organs, are the every-day food of these people." Our friend holds that foreign farmers take less care of their health than their native-born brethren do; are more inclined to the use of strong drinks, and by no means better off financially than the American eaters of puddings, pies and cookies, also that they are helpless in time of sickness, depending altogether on the physician, while the true American farmer can, at a time of necessity, take the entire care of his family in a manner creditable to himself and beneficial to the family.

Both my friend in Wisconsin and myself seem to have fallen into the error of the Englishman, who, taking lodging in a country tavern in Germany, was waited on by a red-haired, cross-eyed fellow, and forthwith wrote in his diary: "The people of this town are cross-eyed and have red hair." We are apt to give to our special observations an altogether too general and sweeping application. Perhaps, for the sake of making a lesson all the more impressive, I have painted the contrast too strongly in favor of the European peasant, as our friend tries to do in favor of the American farmer. In a general way, I am not an admirer of European conditions.

I have also a letter from Miss M. L. S., of Millwood, Oregon, and I wish to make the following extracts. She says: "Would Mr. G., I wonder, be willing to subsist on black bread and thin barley soup? May his good wife try the experiment and report through these columns. She can easily supply dashes for such of his appreciative remarks as her wifely pride constrains her

from giving to the public. And really, are the peasants of Europe better off financially than their corresponding class in our own land? Do they adopt the diet mentioned from custom, choice, necessity, or in penance of their sins? Why should not American farmers enjoy the good things produced here so bountifully? What farm, properly managed, does not produce a food-supply fit to grace the banquet-table of royalty? . . . From 'boardin' round' I have formed an excellent idea of how the charge of high living applies to Western farmers, and these not poor by any means. Many with herds and flocks are without butter, milk or meat for a good part of every year, through penury or lack of thrift. Children from these homes, slender and pale, cannot cope with others at their school duties. I have known pupils to faint at their school tasks actually from want of nourishing food in homes where there could have been abundance."

Finally comes Mrs. S. A. P., of Lake City, Mich., with a tale of the hard lot that befalls some farmers' wives: "One of the first to be up in the morning, and the last one to go to bed, she has garden to make, pigs to feed or chase out of crops, is housekeeper, dressmaker, in fact, everything, even to stable-boy." She wonders why I did not tell about the money that goes for the men-folks' tobacco, and beer, and even stronger drinks, and the treating of friends in town to drinks or dinners, and for expensive farm machinery, etc., while the women-folks in many cases dare not ask for sewing-machine, washing-machine, wringers, patent churn, butter-worker, etc. She says that if I consider meat the cheapest food, I am mistaken. Besides, children crave sweets and need them. "The tables of our Michigan lumber-camps are loaded down with all kinds of cakes, including fried cakes, with pies, sauces and syrup. The men eat an abundance of meat, potatoes, beans, etc., then large quantities of sweet things, and no men in the world can do more work than they do. Out at three o'clock in the morning, in late at night, every one is cheerful and alert, no tired-looking men among them, and no dyspeptics."

I will freely confess that it was a mistake to give my criticism such a wide application, and I hardly meant to do that. The shaft was aimed rather closer home, not at the use of the good things we can have, but at their misuse. I have boarded with farmers in various sections of Germany, as well as in various parts of our own great country, and this long enough, so I know pretty well what their daily food consists of. There are some facts that shed a good deal of light on the merits of this discussion. (1) The food of the European farmer, on the whole, is surely plainer than that of his American brother, and it does not by any means consist mostly of raw pork, or highly seasoned sausage, or strong coffee. Unfortunately, both the European as well as the American often indulge in the use of beer and stronger liquids, of tobacco, etc., and, unfortunately, they often make beasts of burden of their wives. (2) The European farmer relishes his plain food just as much as the Michigan lumberman relishes his potatoes, meat, beans and pastry of all sorts, and digests it as well. Both work hard, and are powerful eaters. (3) The American people are often called a nation of dyspeptics, and spend millions of dollars annually for patent medicines. There must be something wrong with the food, as plain, wholesome food is considered the key to health. The good things we have tempt our appetite, and we are apt to bite off more than we can chew. (4) A village of 1,500 inhabitants here supports two physicians, and perhaps makes them rich. In Europe a physician would starve if dependent on the patronage of 1,500 country people for his living. Farmers there have seldom use for a doctor, and almost none for patent medicines.

I appreciate the advantages of our own United States. Our farmers can and should live better than the European peasant. Why should we not enjoy the good things that our farms and orchards and gardens produce in such abundance. I appreciate the goodness of our women folks, who take so much pains for the sake of satisfying our appetites and tickling our palates. And yet, can we not improve on our methods of cooking and feeding, simplify

our meals and dishes, and save money and medicines? Why provoke dyspepsia with an excess of fried things and sweetmeats? I think there is still a chance for improvement.

On the question, "why farmers are poor," Miss M. L. S. says:

"Farmers do not cultivate diversified talents. There should be on every farm a blacksmith's kit of small dimensions, which the owner should know how to use to the extent of shoeing a horse, sharpening a plow, doing small repairing, and even manufacturing tools demanded by new experiments or work. There should be more study on the best and quickest methods of farm labor. There should be more generosity with the soil in the way of fertilizers. There should be more vigilance in 'watching the corners.' A certain farmer of my acquaintance has several hundred bushels of apples wasting in his orchard, a cider-mill in his storeroom, the best of barrel or vat timber on his pasture hills, more spare time than he knows what to do with during our rainy seasons, and cider vinegar often sells at twenty-five cents and more a gallon. The point is obvious.

"Another failing—a sad failing—one not to be jested about, that habitual need many farmers have for a dram whenever they go to town, and often when they don't. And then the tobacco bill at the store—hush, don't say anything about that!"

Much truth in all this. T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Chapped Teats. At this season of the year cows' teats are very apt to become chapped and very sore through the effect of lying on wet bedding or exposure to cold winds. For this there is nothing in the world better than carbolized vaseline, which is cheap and can be obtained at any drug-store. It will cause the sores to heal in a very short time, and will prevent cracking or soreness if applied about once a week. It should be applied after milking. Farmers should be very careful about this little matter, because quite often a quiet, gentle animal is converted into a vicious kicker by neglect of sore teats. There is no excuse for negligence in this respect, and if one gets kicked out of the stable, or is obliged to sell a valuable cow for beef, it is his own fault.

Tree-protectors. There has been much discussion this winter about methods of preventing rabbits from injuring fruit-trees. Screen wire is an absolute protection, and is very easily put on. The cost is one and one half to two cents a tree. It is cut the required length with a pair of strong scissors, then the strips are tightly rolled on a stick about the size of a fork handle. Simply spring them around the tree and they will stay there without any tying. They should be allowed to remain on until they fall off of themselves, which will be from three to six years.

I have used woven lath protectors almost exclusively for young trees, but while they are possibly a little cheaper, and shade the body of the tree more than wire screen, they require more than twice the time to prepare them, and I am about satisfied are no better.

When a tree has been partly barked by rabbits, the quickest and best way to heal them is to break or cut a five to eight inch drain-tile open lengthwise, fit it together again about the tree and tie it with No. 18 or 20 wire. Then pack the space between the tree and tile with fine earth. As it settles and washes out add more, keeping the tile filled to the top. In twelve to eighteen months the wounds in the tree will be entirely healed, then if the tile has not already fallen off remove it.

Time to Spray. P. H., Missouri, asks: "Would you spray for apple-scab and grape-rot before the season is advanced far enough to assure us that there will be a crop to pay for it?"

If we wait until we are assured of a crop before spraying, I rather think we shall not spray at all, because we will then "be too busy." We have been advised to spray for apple-scab and grape-rot both before the buds open and after. It would be better for farmers to give their apple-trees two or three good sprayings for scab during mild weather in February and March.

It will be quite as effective as if done later, when they are so rushed with the work of getting in crops that the job will not be more than half done.

Two years ago a farmer of my acquaintance bought a good spraying outfit, declaring that he would settle the fungi and codling-moth this year, sure! Along in the summer I asked him how the outfit worked.

"Never tried it," he replied. "Fact is, I was too busy to attend to it when the time came, and I had to let it go this season."

A farmer in this locality last fall sold his apple crop for \$1,400 cash. I said to him: "I suppose you will now feel like giving your orchard extra good care."

"Sure, I'll give it about the same care it has had the past ten years. I kape me hogs in it the year round, and that's all the care it gets."

"Shall you get a spraying outfit and spray your trees?"

"Spray me trees, is it? I shall not. What good does it do to go squirting pizen all over me trees? If the grubs want to get into the apples they'll get in anyhow, an' squirtin' pizen on the brauches won't kape 'em out. I'll not waste me time an' money on any such trumpery!"

Planting Apple-trees. A young farmer who was thinking strongly about setting out five hundred apple-trees said to me:

"I'm a little afraid this thing won't pay. Look at all the orchards there is in this section of the state, and the thousands of trees being planted in other sections. I fear the business is being overdone."

"How many men do you know," I asked him, "who are giving their orchards first-class care, who are keeping down fungous diseases and insect pests and properly fertilizing the soil?"

After studying a minute, he said he knew of only one. "Well," I continued, "how long do you think a neglected orchard will yield good crops—or even live?"

"Not very long," he replied. "Then," said I, "go ahead and plant your trees, and when they come into bearing all these old orchards will be fit for nothing but firewood."

The man who plants an orchard of good varieties of apples is all right. If he brings it up to bearing age in good, healthy condition he has a bonanza. Insect pests and fungous disease annually destroy nearly as many trees as are planted, and only in very favorable years do we have any great surplus of apples, and then the percentage of really first-class fruit is comparatively small. This is because thousands of orchardists think it does not pay to spray for insect pests and fungous diseases unless the indications are good for a full crop, while thousands of others make no effort whatever to fight these enemies of the apple.

All who are intending to plant apple or other fruit trees in the spring should order the stock at once. Send your order to a nurseryman who is honest enough to supply you with stock true to name, and not infested with the San Jose scale or any other pest. It was reported at the meeting of the State Horticultural Society that there are nurseries infested with the San Jose scale, and as it is the most destructive orchard pest known it is advisable to be careful where you buy.

Have the nurseryman forward the trees, plants or shrubs as early as possible, and get them planted before the rush of farm work is on. Don't plant them in mud, but watch for a favorable opportunity, having everything in readiness, and then rush them in. The earlier a tree, vine or shrub is planted the surer it is to grow, and the greater will be that growth the first season.

FRED GRUNDY.

CATALOGUES FOR 1898.

Seedsman, nurserymen and florists spare no pains in getting up attractive and instructive catalogues. Some of these catalogues are good manuals of horticulture. The new ones are now being distributed, and a choice collection can be obtained for the asking. See our advertising column.

Now is the time to make selection of seeds, plants and trees for spring planting, and to send in the orders. Early orders will be filled before the rush, and will prove more satisfactory all around. It saves much worry to have everything on hand before the season opens.

Our Farm.

FARM FACTS AND FANCIES.

NEW LINES OF PRODUCTION.—Local farming communities naturally welcome chances for increased net profit from their farms. This is a progressive age, and live farmers want to keep abreast of the times. Such a spirit furnishes the opportunity a class of agents seek. These men can point out localities that are fairly prosperous all the time as the result of certain specialties, and upon the showing made other communities are led to change their style of farming, invest in the wares of these agents, and strike out into lines of production that are new to them, and for which they may have no special adaptation. The farmers fail to see that they have no assurance of success in the fact that other farmers possessing other soils and markets, and trained in their work, are making money.

CANNING-FACTORIES.—A very profitable scheme now is the placing of canning-factories where farmers may be led to pay a round price for the outfit. I mean that this business is profitable to the manufacturer and agent, but not always so to the farmers. There are localities in which a co-operative factory pays. The conditions are suitable soil, willingness of farmers to produce the needed products, and the unusual wisdom that dictates the selection of a competent manager who is given nearly sole control. But the agent considers none of these things. It is his business to sell an outfit, get the thousands of dollars which the farmers agree to pay for it, and then seek other promising territory.

How LOCATED.—Farmers are accustomed to growing tomatoes and other vegetables in gardens or truck-patches that are kept very fertile. The yields are large for the area, and at a rate an acre that surprises one. When the agent of a manufacturer talks glibly of four hundred bushels of tomatoes an acre, his estimate seems moderate to a gardener or farmer who figures on the product of his small plot. When the farmer is assured that three hundred and fifty bushels of tomatoes is a fair estimate for fairly good corn-land, and twenty cents a bushel is named as the price, the farmer finds by mental calculation that ten acres of tomatoes should yield him \$700 a year, and what other farm crop, says the agent, is half that good? But the figures prove misleading in field culture; blight, rot and cut-worms get in their work, and harvesting the crop proves more costly than was expected. But by this time the eloquent agent is hundreds of miles away, still engaged in missionary work.

NATURAL ADAPTATION.—I do not wish to be understood as saying that the growing of crops for such factories may not be a profitable business. I know farmers who are making money in this way; but they have the soil, trained labor and liking for vegetable farming, and the community that is accustomed to grain, grass and stock farming does not easily and successfully change its methods. Those who invest their money in the factories often find that the farmers around them soon become indifferent when the profits promised by agents are not realized. Other localities peculiarly suited to vegetable farming, and peopled by those acquainted with all the details and liking the work, do fairly well. The latter is no criterion for the former. And then there are no highly profitable lines of farming lying around loose. There is too much competition for such a possibility to exist. Some lines are better than others for certain localities, that is all.

OUR IDLE CREAMERIES.—The hundreds of idle creameries throughout our land do not afford any proof that dairying and the manufacture of butter do not pay. They do pay better than many other lines of work in the right places. But certain conditions must exist. A prime one is a liking for the dairy on the part of the farmers. When there is no past training in the care of cows the work is irksome in most cases, and many farmers cannot be induced to keep the cows needed to supply a creamery. A creamery agent calls attention to the prosperity of some dairy community, becomes eloquent on the subject of profits,

and sells an outfit at a big price to a lot of farmers, who learn too late that a five-thousand-dollar creamery is useless without cream, and that grain and vegetable farmers, unused to dairying, will not keep the cows in sufficient numbers. But the agent has the money—that is his business.

Co-OPERATION OFTEN IMPRACTICABLE.—It is my observation that co-operative business enterprises among farmers usually cause loss to stockholders. Wherever there is promise of profit, private capital is quick to invest, and the co-operative concern occupies the territory that the experienced business man does not care to enter. Wherever there is fair certainty of success with a new venture, the capitalist will be found. If farmers wish to grow products for a cannery or a creamery or any other sort of factory, and the conditions for success in manufacture are good, experts with capital are easily secured. In theory, the principle of business co-operation seems all right, but the hard-earned money invested in unprofitable co-operative enterprises by farmers would be sufficient in amount to pay off tens of thousands of farm mortgages to-day. Is it not time to cease listening to the alluring stories of agents who would revolutionize the farm methods of a locality by the sale of their wares?

WE SHOULD BE PROGRESSIVE.—In what I have said there is no criticism of the truly progressive spirit. We are hunting new crops, new markets and new methods. But there is no progress in the scheme that fails. The failure blocks needed progress. The methods of an entire community are not changed in a day or a year. Instinctively we follow certain lines of production. The individual may get out of line at a bound, and yet land safely on his feet, but generally speaking, true progress is made in slow, conservative ways. The production of new crops is a matter of experiment, and our experiments are safest when made on a small scale at the first. Most progress is made along the lines one knows best—the ones that, by common consent, are peculiarly adapted to one's own locality. We try other lines, but in a conservative way, getting our education without endangering our capital. DAVID.

PRUNING—FRUIT-LADDER—AUTOMATIC PRUNER.

"Prune whenever the knife is sharp" is a very old saying, and it means, perhaps, prune whenever you have the time to do it. The majority of fruit-growers have more leisure during the winter than at any other time, and so this is in reality the time when most of the pruning is and should be done. The mild spells of winter are to be preferred for this kind of work, and it should be attended to at the first opportunity. It will pay to remove superfluous limbs, it will pay to cut down whole trees, where they stand too close, in order to give room to the adjoining ones.

There are many apple orchards throughout the land that were planted too close. If such are left until the trees crowd one

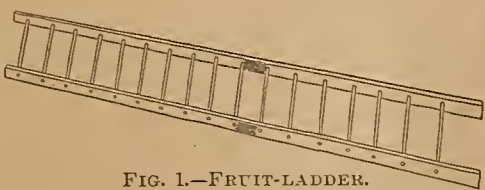


FIG. 1.—FRUIT-LADDER.

another, the lower limbs of all the trees become quite unproductive, and finally die, while the trees continue to grow higher and higher, and at last the only good apples are found where a thirty-foot ladder cannot touch them.

I still have the reputation of being a good climber, and so it happened that I was called on last fall to help a neighbor friend shake off what apples could not be reached by the pickers. These were mostly Spys, and a number of barrels of \$2-fruit might have been saved had it not been so high up and beyond reach. Now, this orchard has for many years been a very profitable one, but for the last ten years it has been declining, and I am afraid can never again be made very profitable. The fact is, the cost of picking the fruit comes too high. When prices are low, the fruit does not bring enough to pay for the picking, handling and the packages. What to do in this case is a question. As intimated before, only very little can be gained by any treat-

ment; still, I would cut out half or more of the trees if necessary. I would fix it so I could raise a ladder, at any rate, and possibly shortening in the limbs, especially in the tops of the trees, might be a good thing.

It is my opinion, gained from experience and observation, that apple-trees should be set from forty to forty-five feet, except in case of the Wagner. Let us look at an orchard that had thus been planted thirty or thirty-five years ago. What are its conditions? Although the trees may have been headed high enough so a team might be driven anywhere under them when no fruit is on, but when a crop of apples is on, and nearly matured, the lower limbs almost touch the ground. A great deal of the fruit may be picked standing right on

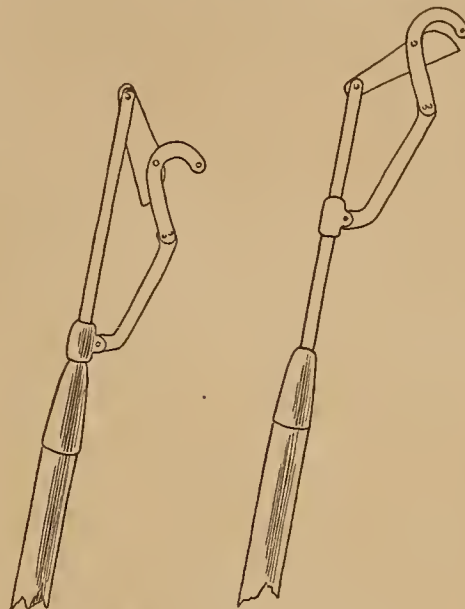


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

the ground or from a low step-ladder. A thirty, yes, a twenty-five foot ladder will reach every one of the apples, and all of them, from top to bottom, are well colored, well developed. One may easily go with his ladder clear around each tree; no vexation trying to push and crowd and work the ladder between the interlapping limbs. One man may pick from twenty-five to forty barrels of apples in one day. And such an orchard will remain profitable for two or three generations, if the fact is not overlooked that fruit-trees need fertilizing and cultivation.

Pruning may be done every other year in an apple orchard. Cut out the suckers during the summer. Young trees need more attention than old ones, and should be looked after annually. It may happen that larger limbs need cutting out, although it should be avoided, if possible. The wounds thus left should be covered with wax, or in cold weather, with paint. If this is neglected, the sun and the drying winds cause cracks, the rain-water enters and may cause rot, and in time a hole.

If you use a long ladder, either when pruning or picking fruit, find out first where it balances when carried by one man. Paint this section the center of gravitation between the two proper rounds some other color from the rest (Fig. 1).

Labor-saving implements are always welcomed by the enterprising farmer. He is constantly on the lookout how to curtail expenses in order to make his vocation paying, or more paying, perhaps. Apple and pear orchards have not paid any too well of late, although the fruit was abundant. And now, while on the subject of pruning, I want to mention a labor-saving pruner I have come across recently, and found to be excellent, indeed. I herewith present illustrations showing the implement in two different positions. Fig. 2 shows it as it appears ready for use; Fig. 3, the position it is in when nearly closed, or when a limb is about cut off. Of course, no very large limbs can be cut with it. Limbs of one inch in diameter are perhaps as large as one should try to cut, but all small limbs may be cut off very rapidly with it. I can assure the reader that it is a pleasure to use the implement. I want to further say this pruner cuts on the pull, and when the cut is made the knife drops right back into position for the next cut. By a quick move or a jerk one may easily cut off the tips of limbs, drop a worm's nest in a second, or cut off black-knot of plum and cherry trees, etc. The implement may be had with either a long or a short handle. I use the short, six-foot handle; it answers my purpose, and for use among small and medium-sized trees it is long enough. As to the price, I paid \$2.50 to an agent for my pruner. I think that was a little steep, as it should

be bought for \$1.50 or less; and if manufacturers would rely for their sales more upon advertising in our good farm papers than upon agents, who always expect to make a large profit, I believe they would make just as many sales and benefit mankind more. F. GREINER.

IMPROVEMENT OF WORN-OUT LANDS BY PLOWING IN GREEN CROPS.

Soils that have been in long culture, without having been in clover or the grasses, or received periodical dressings of barn-yard manure, have been deprived of the greater portions of their mold. And, as is also an admitted truth, that mold is an indispensable ingredient in every productive soil, it stands to reason that, when in the course of improvident culture, it has been extracted, it is essential that it be restored. The question, then, how shall this restoration be brought about, is one of full interest to every farmer. Those who have ample resources, who have full supplies of animal and mineral and vegetable manures, who have the materials on their land to form composts, comprising the elements in question, need look no further for the means of restoring the needed constituents to the soil. But those who are differently situated, who have but little manure and are but ill-supplied with the raw material to make compost, must turn their attention to the best means of placing such matters in the soil as will form mold. The growing and plowing in of green crops is often advised, and we here repeat that advice. No soil can be truly productive unless both organic and inorganic plant-foods are present. The air can supply a portion of the organic food, as clover-roots can by their tubercle bacilli convert the unavailable nitrogen of the air into available plant-food. This can be done only while the plant is growing.

What kinds of crops should be cultivated and plowed in? This question must be solved by circumstances. The facility with which seed may be obtained, the facility with which plants selected can be grown on these poor lands, their cost, etc., will determine to a great extent which shall be used. Chief is red clover, valuable for pasture and equally so as a fertilizer. Clover is first and no doubt the best mortgage raiser there is, for it surely does restore the fertility of the land. As mentioned before, it supplies the nitrogen supply as none other can. I know farms that would raise scarcely anything, which in course of four or five years' treatment with clover, and with proper rotation, have become very valuable as crop-producing farms. Clover is a good crop for green manuring. Rye and rape are likewise recommended, but clover undoubtedly stands first.

CHARLES W. BURKETT.

CLOVER-SEED.

On account of the large crop the past season clover-seed is very cheap. Now is the golden opportunity for selecting sound and clean seed—the choicest on the market—and sowing it liberally.

Just Think A Minute

Without blood circulating through your veins, you would instantly die. Now, if the existence of life depends upon the presence of blood, is it strange that health depends upon the good quality of this vital fluid? Is it surprising that with impure blood people cannot be well? Is it not easy to see why Hood's Sarsaparilla, the One True Blood Purifier, has the greatest record of cures in the world? Because it makes the blood pure, rich and nourishing the result of taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for all diseases caused or promoted by impure blood is naturally, logically and necessarily, a cure.

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Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

GROWING STRAWBERRIES.—A prominent strawberry-grower makes, in "American Gardening," great claims in favor of setting strawberry-plants in late fall, say in October or even November, or at the beginning of the fall rains. I will not say that it is impossible to grow a crop of nice berries, and especially to secure highest prices and perhaps a large profit in the whole by this method, but I believe it will require, for full success, a man who knows exactly how to handle plants in this way, and who has the right conditions for it. As for myself, I have set out strawberry-plants at all times of the year, and I have invariably had the best success when doing that work in early spring. Surely this spring planting involves the care of the bed for more than a year before a crop can be expected, and the care should be thorough for anything like a brilliant success. But when you give such care you will get berries, and plenty of them. I cannot say that I have ever gotten berries enough from a patch that was set either in summer or in the fall to pay for the trouble. So, although I propose to give this late fall planting scheme another trial (next fall), I shall still stick to spring planting for the main crop. South of Philadelphia and Baltimore it may possibly do to set plants during the summer, in the expectation of getting a kind of matted row for the following spring's fruiting.

Professor W. J. Green (in bulletin of the Ohio experiment station for September, 1897) speaks of summer planting as one of the methods of intensive culture, but hardly profitable as commonly practised, although extra fine berries can be thus grown. Mr. Green says: "The objection to fall planting is the extra amount of work involved in starting the plants, either by bedding or potting, and the small crop which is usually secured." The station has tried a plan of close planting, which was simply to set potted plants in triple rows, placing them about six inches apart each way. If planted in July or August, such rows give a crop nearly equal to spring-set, matted rows. The plan was modified and improved the present season, doing away with the necessity of potting the plants, says Mr. Green. "Our main beds were planted, on well-prepared ground, very early in the season, and the plants began to throw out runners in June, many of which had roots early in July. It became evident that plant production must be restricted or the entire ground would be covered before fall. This suggested the plan of thinning during the latter part of July, and planting at once according to the open matted row system of fall planting, which had been so successful in a former trial with potted plants. It was necessary to shade slightly with brush, and to water for several days. As early as the first of August perfect matted rows, with plants standing six inches apart, were formed, rivaling in appearance the matted rows in the spring-planted bed. The cost of establishing this new bed has not been greater than that required in planting and caring for the spring-planted bed. Perhaps not the largest number of quarts, but surely the finest berries will come from the fall-set plants."

Mr. Green also thinks that this plan works nicely with intensive vegetable gardening, as the ground can be occupied with early vegetables during the spring and early summer; besides, vegetable gardeners usually have a supply of water. Within a year from the time of setting the strawberry-plants the ground may be planted to vegetables again. "It will be seen that the essential feature of the plan is the thinning of the plants in the spring-planted bed, and this is of itself a necessity if fancy berries are to be grown. It is true that the same end may be attained by cutting the runners and keeping the plants in hills or in their matted rows, or by cutting out and destroying surplus plants. Either of these methods involves as much labor as taking up plants for a new bed, and hill culture really requires more." To all this I have to say that my only trouble for a number of years was to get plants enough for a matted row. I used no water, and the seasons happened to be dry, so runners were made sparingly, except in a few cases, as with the Splendid, a variety mentioned by me in an earlier issue, and

one which is a splendid plant-maker, indeed. But where varieties of free plant-producing habit are planted (and to them belongs Wilson, Haverland, Warfield, Bnbach, Crescent, etc.), I can in a measure check the tendency to excessive plant production by wide planting. I would set the Splendid and Crescent no nearer in the row than about three feet (in spring planting), and the Haverland, Bnbach, etc., no closer than two feet apart in the rows.

STRAWBERRY VARIETIES.—I have spoken before this of my bed of Splendids. The already-mentioned strawberry bulletin describes it as follows: "Perfect flower; plants vigorous and fairly prolific; berries medium to large, regular and uniform in size. Although not large, the berries make a fine appearance in the baskets; rather soft, and does not always color perfectly, but would do well for near market or home use as a pollinizer."

ALPINE STRAWBERRY.—A type of strawberry not mentioned in this bulletin is the Alpine. I have started a new bed of them again, and, indeed, like to have a good-sized one. It is the one berry which will give you fruit even the same year when planted. If the soil is a rich mold, and moist, and perhaps very lightly shaded, plants form very rapidly and in great abundance, and these plants will bloom and fruit at once. Of course, the berries are rather small and produced scatteringly, but they are of exceedingly high flavor, and a dish of them in August or September is quite a treat.

TOMATO CUTTINGS.—For many years I have made it a practice to increase my tomato-plants to some extent by cuttings, and usually succeeded in raising fine plants and securing early fruit. In a bulletin (No. 49) issued this year by the West Virginia agricultural experiment station, I find the following report of experiments: "Since 1891 the writer has each year grown seedling and cutting plants of tomatoes for the purpose of arriving at some conclusion in regard to the relative time at which cuttings should be made from which to grow plants to compare justly with seedling plants of the same variety. The results of the various tests have themselves been somewhat variable, but the balance of the evidence all tends in the one direction; that is, that cutting plants are earlier than seedling, but correspondingly less productive, except in a few cases." This plan of making tomato-plants from cuttings is a very handy device for increasing one's stock of new or choice plants when seed is very expensive or not at hand. In most cases I have been unable to note much difference in yield between seedling plants and plants made from cuttings.

T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

PROTECTING STRAWBERRIES FROM FROSTS.

On the prairies of western Minnesota and the Dakotas there has been much difficulty in getting good crops of strawberries. The berries form, but frequently only to become nubbins or to be caught by frost when in flower. In the following article Superintendent O. C. Gregg, of the Minnesota Farmers' Institute, gives the way in which he has grown them successfully in a small way at his home in the dry climate of southwestern Minnesota. The fact that he has prevented nubbins by heavy mulching is interesting. It should be understood that straw is of no value in that section.

"We need the willow to check the sweep of the winds over the plat, for they rob us of the moisture that we must have, and they also destroy the winter covering that we almost as badly need. The willow is sturdy and pliant. Twenty years of wind will not destroy it, for with yielding branches it returns to its place after the blast and extends its roots still further, so that each year it protects with increasing success. The mulching of the willow will greatly add to its growth and value as a protector.

"Put the strawberries sufficiently far away from the willow, so that they will not receive the banks of snow that would otherwise be piled upon them. Plant the strawberry rows six feet or more apart. We expect in future to plant the staminate and pistillate varieties in the same row, so as to be sure of perfect fertilization. Cultivate

for the first summer thoroughly, and be sure that the weeds are thoroughly destroyed—make no mistake here. When the fall comes, pile up straw or prairie hay, as in a windrow, between the rows. The wide space of six feet enables you to do this without difficulty. Pile it high. Remember the willow will prevent an undue scattering of this mulch. As winter appears rake enough of this straw or hay over the plants so as to sufficiently cover. We can cover about two inches in depth. In the spring, rake off late enough so that if you left it a little longer the plants would injure. Some of the leaves will be destroyed, but the root and crown will be in good condition. This late uncovering will prevent that early start that may bring the flowering period and late frosts together. The probabilities are that this late uncovering will bring the flowering period after the latest frosts of spring. In case frost threatens, take a fork and throw over the plants then in flower of the ample straw which lies between the rows. This is rapidly done. When morning comes, and the danger is past, then with a rake uncover. By this means we have two checks upon the destruction of the plants by spring frosts.

"In case the plat is not protected by the willow belt as it should be, then this mulching may be held in place by corn-stalks that will prevent the scattering of the mulching by the wind.

"Every experienced horticulturist will recognize the value of this mulching to the bed during the second summer. Moisture is kept down; weeds are absolutely unable to grow through it; it makes a clean bed for the pickers to sit and rest upon; it adds to the beauty of the plat. After picking we take this abundant mulching and put it under the willows to continue its good work of preserving moisture for the willows instead of for the strawberries. We take the scythe and cut the tops of the strawberry-plants close to the ground, rake everything clean, cultivate with the horse-hoe, add fertilizers in the shape of hen manure and ashes, putting ashes upon the plants and hen manure upon the ground; then again we add the abundant mulching as before on approach of cold weather. Future experience may improve this method, but at the present writing we have found that it has given abundant success."

CORRESPONDENCE.

PROTECTING TREES.—F. B. Hamilton, Kan., writes: "That trees rubbed with the fat and blood of rabbits are protected from rabbits." I have no doubt about this being a good protection, but a beef liver will furnish the blood much easier than rabbits and works perfectly.

ANOTHER WASH FOR FRUIT-TREES.—J. D. Farwell, Arkansas, writes: "Take old tobacco stems or leaves, and make a strong tea by boiling them. To five parts of this tea add one quart of soft soap, or the equivalent in hard soap; then put in enough slaked lime to make it of the consistency of whitewash. Apply with a swab or brush, letting some run down to the roots. This is a sure protector against rabbits, mice and insects."

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Apple Seedlings.—E. M. Hallsville, Ohio. In a small way it is best to mix apple-seed that is to be kept over winter with moist sand in a small box, and bury in the ground outdoors, where it should be permitted to remain until the ground thaws out in spring. Then bring the box into a warm room, where it should be kept moist and frequently stirred until the seed starts a little, when it should be sown in a warm, rich, open loam, covering it about one half inch deep. Care must be taken not to allow the seed to get excessively wet or very dry in the house, and it must be stirred or it may start too much in one part before it has started in another part of the box. The desired condition at sowing-time is to have the seed barely started, so that it will come up very soon after being sown. Some growers plant the seed without starting it into growth, but I prefer the plan recommended. I think it very desirable to freeze the seed before planting, which is accomplished by burying it outdoors; but this will do no good unless the seed is moist. If seed is now dry, mix it with moist sand and place in a cold cellar for a week, by which time it will be well moistened, when it can be safely buried outdoors and treated in the spring as recommended.

English Walnuts—Pecans.—M. K. Loenst Point, Ind. A few English (Persian) walnut-trees in specially favored localities have attained considerable size in Connecticut and New York, but generally it fails north of Pennsylvania near the Atlantic sea-coast, and is more unreliable in the middle states. The trees are hardy in the southern states, but liable to root-rot. The only part of this country where it has been profitably grown is in southern California. In northern California it is hardy, but the fruit is reported as failing to set well. There is undoubtedly some strains of this that are hardier than others, the same as is true of all kinds of trees, and it is important to get the hardiest for growing at the North, and yet very little has been done to find out the kinds best adapted for the North. But there is probably very little chance that this nut will be grown at the North profitably. In California the trees from seed fruit in from four to ten years, and in the Atlantic states from ten to twenty years. The nuts should be kept in moist sand until they sprout, when they should be planted.—The pecan is a native tree as far north as Davenport, Iowa, and southern Indiana. The tree is said to attain its largest size in the North, but to bear the largest and thinnest shelled nuts in the South, especially in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. It has seldom produced good crops of nuts in the northern limit of its growth, although quite hardy. It is most productive in the southern states and California. To grow the trees the nuts should be buried in the ground in the autumn, and planted out in spring. Sound nuts picked up under the leaves now or in spring should grow. The trees attain bearing age in from ten to fifteen years.

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with freight rates sent free. Ask for it. Single
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Our Farm.

A YEAR'S WORK ON MY FARM OF FOURTEEN ACRES.

THE past season convinced me more fully than ever of the propriety of reducing the area under cultivation and doing well what is undertaken. Having sold off a part of my farm, retaining only fourteen acres, I received about as much profit from it as I did from thirty-six acres before.

From the fourteen acres, and one acre rented, fifteen acres in all, I sold last season about \$730 worth of stuff at an outlay of about \$225 for help, fertilizer, etc., and this in spite of sickness and many disadvantages that I never had to encounter before; while of the fourteen acres fully one half is in apple orchard that yielded no "money crop" this season. I have made no note of the vegetables and fruit used in the family and stored for winter use, which is a considerable item.

About an acre was planted in strawberries, that also gave no returns last season, and about an acre in Duchess pears also did not give an income.

For the first time I have to record a failure of my crop of Emerald Gem melons, which is usually a source of considerable profit. The only melons that I got any money out of was the Grand Rapids, an early, fine-looking melon, but of such poor quality that I shall hesitate to plant it again. Buyers became so thoroughly disgusted with them that they would scarcely look at them toward the close of the season, and it was very difficult to make a sale at any price then. Cauliflower, as usual, paid me well. From one patch of about five hundred all but scarcely a dozen made extra nice heads, and averaged about eighty cents a dozen. I was able to hold a fancy trade in Buffalo on these all season at practically my own price. I market with all the leaves on instead of having the heads trimmed up. In this way they keep much better and do not bruise and become spotted so easily. Thorough filling of the soil and fertilizing are the requisites with this crop; that, if overlooked, will tell on the crop, and poor cauliflower will never pay.

My cabbage crop paid well, except the late planting of Danish Ballhead. I wish I had put out all of the Succession instead of the Danish. Fortunately, all of one patch, was set out with Succession and nearly all this brought me \$3 a hundred heads, while the Danish brought only \$2, and many were not fit to cut. The Danish wants rich soil and good cultivation, and should be planted earlier than the others.

Prizetaker onions paid me as well as usual, where I got them out early. I did not have them large enough to put up in crates like the imported onions, but it strikes me that that will be the way to put them up to get a top-notch price for them. The Gibralters grow larger and a shade lighter color, but they are softer and will not keep so long.

The Early Ruby tomato for first early is still the best-paying tomato, but I have learned that they should be planted on some richer ground than one would choose for other tomatoes, and only extra strong plants should be set out. For a later tomato the New Imperial is my favorite in a pink tomato, and the Improved Trophy for a red one. I was very much pleased with the latter from a trial last year. It is very firm, smooth, large and nice color. I had a row of these that I pulled up, as a heavy frost was threatening one evening, and put them on piles where they gradually ripened up, and I got sixty to seventy-five cents a bushel for them when other tomatoes were nearly all gone.

My egg-plants did not do so well, but I got a good price for what I had. The N. J. Purple was my favorite. I tried the Black Pekin, but want no more of it.

My late potato crop was nearly ruined by the blight. The New Queen, as an early one, has been just as early and yielded fully as well as the Thoroughbred. The New Thorburn is an exceedingly handsome early potato, and it yielded well. The Uncle Sam and Sir Walter Raleigh yielded well.

Plums were a large crop, but rotted badly and were cheap. Pears were also cheap, except Anjous, which brought a good price. The only apples on the place worth mentioning were Maiden Blush and Gravenstein. These are the most profitable apples on the place, by reason of their constant bearing.

C. WECKESSER.

SKIMMING OF MILK ON THE FARM.

There are great objections to having to care for on the farm, and haul to the factory, a large bulk of milk, when only the cream is needed, and any system which does away with the seemingly useless labor of handling eight or ten pounds for the delivery of one will be most welcome. In the season of bad roads it is difficult to carry large loads of cans, and sometimes it is impossible to transport milk to the creamery when cream alone might be carried. Besides the advantage of having to haul only a small amount instead of a large amount it is an advantage to have cream removed on the farm, so that skim-milk may be fed when fresh. The

stay long. The summers are delightful; no hot nights. Oregon City, the county-seat, has over three thousand inhabitants. It is one of the busiest towns on the Pacific coast, and has woolen, paper and flour mills. It is fifteen miles from Portland, with which it is connected by rail and electric cars and a line of boats on the Willamette river. The Willamette falls is a fine water-power. Besides running the mills, it furnishes power for the electric lights in Portland. Wood is plenty and cheap. There are some deer and bears and plenty small game. The streams contain trout and salmon. Several from here have gone to Klondike, and others are going in the spring, but I believe those that stay at home and work will do better than to go to that frozen country and endure the hardships.

Oregon City, Oregon.

L. O. E.

FROM KANSAS.—I suspect there are many readers of the FARM AND FIRESIDE who are renting land in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and paying five or six dollars an acre cash rent, and hardly making expenses. I believe I can do such people no greater service than to tell them that instead of buying a farm every year, and never owning one, they ought to go where the price of land and their capital are more nearly par. As fine land as there is in Kansas can be bought in this county for \$7



GATHERING THE PEACH CROP IN SOUTH MISSOURI.

Scene at the packing house of the Great McNair fruit farm, St. Elmo, Oregon county, on the line of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis railroad. Peach-pickers starting for the orchard. Thirty-five cars of peaches (four hundred bushels to the car) were shipped from Mr. McNair's three-year-old, one hundred and twenty acre Elberta peach orchard, from August 6th to August 18th, 1897. Paying to the shippers two dollars a bushel above the cost of picking, packing and shipping.

gathered-cream system with deep-set milk gives these results only partially.

The plan of having small separators on the farms of patrons is being tried in some districts. The skim-milk is thus made immediately available for feeding, and the cream alone needs to be cooled, cared for and hauled. This system appears to be excellent in certain cases, but just how widely it can be profitably adopted is not yet shown. Experiments in this line will be watched with interest. It is a natural development of the cream-gathering plan, and if successful will be widely adopted. It will do away with the return to the farm of the spoiled contents of a filthy skim-milk tank, as well as the sometimes heated discussions as to how much skim-milk belongs to the different patrons. But the most important advantage will be the use on each farm of its own skim-milk while fresh and sweet. The chance of young stock taking a disease which may be on a distant farm, whence the germs may be delivered to the creamery and carried away in the skim-milk to other farms, is also avoided.

If the milk is to be set for cream, it should be aerated and set when warm. This should be done as soon as the milk is strained. If a machine is used, aeration takes place while it is passing through the separator. Unless it is desired to ripen the cream immediately it must be promptly cooled.—Farmers' Bulletin No. 63.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM OREGON.—Clackamas is one of the best counties in Oregon. All kinds of grain do well. The past year the wheat yield was from thirty to forty bushels an acre; potatoes were abundant, with no potato-bugs to injure them; apples, a large crop, and hops about half a crop, and selling for thirteen and fourteen cents a pound. Pears, plums, prunes, grapes, cherries and berries grow to perfection. This is a land of fruits and flowers; we have some very pretty wild flowers, one especially, a flowering shrub called "Ribes sanguineum." It grows eight or ten feet high, has a beautiful scarlet flower, blooms early and stays in bloom a long time, and in the fall it has purple berries. The winters here are not cold; sometimes there is a little snow, but it does not

an acre, cash or as much time as the buyer wants. For the information of those who are not acquainted with this country, its resources and possibilities, I want to give some figures based upon actual experience:

Cost of eighty acres of land.....	\$560.00
Breaking soil, at \$1.25 an acre.....	100.00
	\$660.00
COST OF CROP.	
Disking.....	\$ 8.00
Harrowing twice.....	16.00
Drilling.....	20.00
Seed, at seventy cents.....	56.00
Heading and stacking.....	80.00

Total.....\$252.00

Say fifteen bushels an acre.....1,200 bu.
Sell at, say fifty cents.....\$600.00
Less threshing, at six cents..... 72.00

Total.....\$528.00

Cost..... 252.00

Profit.....\$276.00

This is the profit on the crop, and the work being hired and paid for in cash at rates a little higher than prevailed here the past year. The yield and price given above are very conservative, the yield this year averaging at least one third more, and the price now is above eighty cents. After reading the above it may be a pertinent question to ask: "If money can be made so easily farming in Kansas, why has there been so much complaint of hard times?" The cry of hard times is from two classes—improvident farmers and politicians. Farmers who went into debt because they could when times were "booming," and found it difficult to pay out when the boom collapsed, cursed the state and the nation and everything else for their own mistakes and bad management. The other class were the bum politicians, who seize upon anything and everything to bring themselves into notice, and appear as champions of any class or portion of the people who will elect them to office. The past history of those politicians is too well known to need retelling. That times have been hard, we all know; but there has been no year since I came to southern Kansas, twelve years ago, when a prudent farmer did not make a living, and most of these years accumulate money. There are thousands of acres of land here for sale. I am no real-estate agent, have no land to sell, and only desire to make known to the hundreds of good people who are striving against adverse circumstances to make a living the larger and better opportunities to be had in this grand state.

J. G.

Bluff City, Harper county, Kan.

850,000 GRAPE VINES

100 Varieties. Also Small Fruits, Trees, &c. Best rootstock. Genuine, cheap. 2 sample vines mailed for 10c. Descriptive price-list free. LEWIS ROSELI, Fredonia, N. J.

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My new Seed and Plant Book for '98 contains everything good, old or new. Hundreds of illustrations. Four colored plates. Full of business cover to cover. Pronounced by all, the Brightest and Best Book of the Year.

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15 Packets SEEDS. FLOWERS 20 Fine BULBS.

For 25c. Post-paid.



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| 1 Pkt. Sweet Pea, scarlet. | 1 Pkt. Lavender, delightfully fragrant. |
| 1 " Petunia, variegated. | 1 " Tokio Chrysanthemum (novelty). |
| 1 " Japanese Morning Glory, beautiful. | 1 " Myosotis, beautiful forget-me-nots. |
| 1 " California Violet, flowers 2 inches. | |
| 1 Bulb Begonia, 1 Gloxinia, 2 Hyacinth Lily, white, hardy; 1 Tuberose, variegated; 15 Oxalis, white, pink. | |

15 Packets Seeds and 20 Bulbs in all for 25c., together with our illustrated catalogue.

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Counts for more in the selection of fruit trees than almost any other place. Why? Because fruit trees are bought on faith. We have the standard kind of all the leading varieties. Fruit Trees, Berry Plants, Evergreens, etc., etc. Strong, healthy trees free from Black Knot, Yellows, Blight, Scale, etc., etc. Do not place your spring order until you get our catalogue and prices. Sent free; write to-day.

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Extra fine stock of CURRANTS, including the new and unrivalled WILDER. Lowest rates. Quality extra. Warranted true. T. S. MURBARD CO., Fredonia, N. J.

We PAY CASH each WEEK the year round, if you sell Stark Trees. Outfit free. STARK NURSERY, LOUISIANA, MO., Stark, Mo., Rockport, Ill., Dansville, N. Y.

Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

THE RECORDS OF SMALL FLOCKS.

ALL reports of large records for laying by individual hens relate to small flocks, and there must be some reason for this, which is not difficult to understand when all the facts connected with the keeping of poultry in large or small flocks are considered. The small flocks receive a greater variety of food, including the scraps from the table, and the individual hens are known to every member of the household. Should one of the hens droop it is at once noticed, and the increase or falling off of the daily returns of eggs is easily apparent to some one of the family, as perhaps each hen has a name and is a pet. Should one of the hens be injured, or is not in the best of condition, she is taken into the house and as carefully attended to as though she was a very valuable creature, and the quarters are ample and clean. All of these details, which are not considered disagreeable, may be classed under the one heading which points to an essential portion of the management, and which may be termed "observation," expresses much, as it is important to know every fowl, if possible, and thus fully understand what may be required for one and all. When large numbers can be given the same care and close observation that is bestowed upon the small flock the problem of success with large numbers will be solved, but when several hundred hens are kept there are other conditions which do not exist with small flocks. The scraps from the table become an insignificant item in the food, the labor must be done by some one who can devote full time to the fowls, the number of sick fowls will be larger, thus preventing careful attention under such circumstances, and the individuality of the hens is lost in the whole. Large flocks may be divided into smaller ones, but even then there will be a difference between the number of flocks and a single flock of pets which come under the observation of every member of the family.

THE EARLY BROILERS.

In January prices of broilers begin to rise, and before the month is over those who have some to sell will discover that there is more profit in selling young stock than in old, as the cost of food is less, and the length of time, when attention must be given, is shorter. It may be claimed that young chicks are more difficult to raise, and that there is a smaller loss among adults, but as the adult must first pass through all the stages of chickenhood, with its attendant drawbacks, anything that may be an obstacle to the one applies with equal force to the other. That the farmer who hatched early chicks for market, and has them ready to sell, will not regret it will be made manifest, as prices may range anywhere from twenty to forty cents a pound if the chicks are fat. It is difficult to fatten growing chicks, however, but they can be made as fat as it is possible to get them. The food usually given when they are large enough to sell is corn-meal, moistened with milk, morning and night, as much as they can eat, adding four ounces of crude melted tallow to every pound of corn-meal. Begin this food ten days or two weeks before selling them. At noon give finely chopped green food, bone-meal, or any variety that they will eat. Never leave food before them, or give too much at one time, as fermented food may induce bowel disease and cause loss in weight.

THE BEST HENS.

There is no way of knowing which of the hens are the best unless they are closely observed. Every hen that has a good record should be marked and retained, not only for laying, but for breeding purposes. The egg record would be much higher, and the flocks improved every year, if the farmer would keep only the best hens from which to produce the layers for another year. Unfortunately, with many "a hen is a hen," but in fact, there is a wide difference in individuals, and any peculiarity or points of excellence should be observed, so that all future stock may be better than the preceding.

KEEPING ACCOUNTS.

The new year is the time to begin an account with the fowls, and if every farmer would present a small blank-book to the members of his family, and request that all items of receipt and expenses be entered, the result would not only be economy of expenditures, but an object-lesson would be presented leading to benefit in the future. But few farmers keep accounts, especially with poultry. It is much easier to notice a cow and "guess" at her work, but a flock contains a number of individuals, and it is not so easy to learn what they are doing. The beginning of the year would probably show a loss with the hens, but this should not be discouraging, as the end of the year may show a profit. Accounts will teach how to feed to better advantage, as every pound will be weighed or measured, and they will also point out the best markets and where the highest prices were obtained. There is nothing laborious or difficult in keeping an account, and it is not necessary to follow bookkeeping methods. Every farmer knows on which side of the page to mark his receipts, and five or ten minutes every evening will be all the time required for so doing.

BETTER PRICES.

The ending of an old year and the beginning of the new is a busy time in the poultry market. If the poultryman knows how to get his poultry to market in the right condition and at the proper time he will make a gain in the price received. It is well to mention that December and January are the months when there is the greatest demand for adult stock, known in the market as "fowls." Chickens—that is, young stock not over three pounds weight each—give way to the fowls, the prices at this season for both ranging very nearly the same. The market will bear a great pressure about this period of the year and until well into February. After the middle of January all kinds of poultry are usually scarce, and the demand for the one-pound broilers begins. There is much in knowing what to do. The first thing is to feed out the corn and make the fowls fat. This not only adds to the weight, but also brings two or three cents more a pound, which amounts to quite a sum for a heavy bird. If the stock is mixed the hens should be assorted from the males, and when this is done the fattest and best should be in one lot.

ANIMAL FOOD.

Fowls need less assistance in the summer season in procuring animal food than in winter, because worms and insects are utilized, and to make them lay during the cold weather it is essential that animal food be provided. This may be done by feeding lean meat, cut bone and meat, or the commercial ground meat. It should not add to the cost, as the grain may be diminished in proportion to the amount of animal food given. Ducks cannot be made profitable unless the grain is greatly reduced and animal food is given, and for them the ground meat is better than for hens.

BONE FOR CHICKS.

Green bone (freshly cut and very fine) may be fed to young chicks at all ages and stages of growth, but not too liberally. It serves as grit and is digestible, which is not the case with flint and other grit. If too much is given at a meal the chick will be overtaxed and bowel disease will result. About a tablespoonful of the bone to twenty-five chicks once a day is sufficient for them when a week old, the quantity to be gradually increased as the chicks grow. One point to observe is that all of the green bone must be eaten so as not to allow even the smallest portion to remain, or it may decompose and prove injurious.

HENS EATING EGGS.

Egg-eating happens in all flocks. When a hen learns to eat eggs she usually goes to the same place for a fresh supply. She may not know that eggs can be had in the next nest, as she cannot think of such things, but she can remember where she gets the regular daily ration. Now, by closing the nest entirely, and forcing her to go outside and seek the eggs, she will soon forget about them. Whenever hens begin to eat eggs it is a good plan to change the location of their nests, for, while such a method may not prove a remedy for all, it will cure some of them of the vice.

CROSSING NOT ADVANTAGEOUS.

Breeds of opposite characteristics will not blend. Experiments with the crossing of cattle, using the beef and butter breeds, have not been satisfactory, while the man who would attempt to improve the fine merinoes by using the mutton breeds of sheep for crossing would be considered unwise. The attempts that have been made with poultry have been equally as barren of results as with larger stock. It is not a matter of record, as every farm furnishes abundant proof. As a rule, nearly all farmers have at times procured pure-bred fowls, but crossed the breeds, and the mixed, motley nondescripts which can be seen by the score on the majority of farms are the evidence of the attempts to secure vigor by crossing. They have no fixed characteristics, no two of them are alike in color, and they do not pay as well as pure breeds.

THE WORK OF DRESSING POULTRY.

The work which is usually tedious and hurried is that of picking and preparing the carcasses of fowls for market. Any kind of getting the fowls ready seems to be in order, and the skin is perhaps broken, the pin-feathers are not all removed, and the dressing is not of a class of work that attracts buyers. Now, the most important matter in selling fowls that are killed is to dress them properly. Every feather should be removed, the work must not be hurried, as the skin may thus be broken. This is more important with broilers than with fowls. If the market for broilers is thirty cents a pound a few chicks with broken skins in a lot will reduce the price to twenty cents a pound, and there is also a loss on fowls. If a large number are shipped, the difference in "choice" and "inferior" poultry may cause a loss of one third, or even more, in value.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Market for Feathers.—Mrs. R. D. T., Nebraska City, Neb., writes: "Is there any market for chicken-feathers, and are wing and tail feathers salable if selected from the others?"

REPLY:—The commission merchants receive such on consignment, the prices obtained depending on the cleanliness of the feathers and their condition. Wing and tail feathers are sold separately.

Relationship in Mating.—C. L., Proctor, Vt., writes: "If eggs from the same flock are used, and chicks hatched by different hens, would the males of one brood be suitable for mating with hens of another brood?"

REPLY:—The hatching of eggs from a flock by different hens does not destroy relationship of chicks. It is better to always procure eggs for hatching the males from some outside source.

Disease of Turkeys.—D. J. A., Thornhill, Can., writes: "My turkeys have swelled heads. It commenced in August, and has continued. They have been given mostly soft food."

REPLY:—You do not state how the turkeys are managed, whether roosting under shelter or otherwise. Swelled heads are due mostly to exposure at night, and the disease may have become rump. Anoint with vaseline once a day and keep under shelter. Feed lean meat and but little grain.

Sawdust.—C. H. P., Troy, N. H., writes: "My hens feed on sawdust, which is within access. They are well fed otherwise."

REPLY:—Hens will frequently fill their crops with sawdust, hence all experienced farmers avoid it in the poultry-house or yards. It is a practice that may be due to lack of gritty material, to sameness of food, or to overfeeding. Give green food, meat, etc., and plenty of sharp grit. The safer course is to keep the hens away from the sawdust.

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In SOUTHERN ILLINOIS and also located on the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad in the famous YAZOO VALLEY of Mississippi. Specially adapted to the raising of corn and hogs. Soil richest in the world. Write for pamphlets and maps. E. P. SKENE, Land Commissioner, BERNT MOE, Assistant Land Commissioner, Illinois Central Railroad Company, Park Row, Room 25, Chicago, Ill.

HONEY MONEY and how to get it is the theme of *Gleanings in Bee Culture*. A handsomely illustrated monthly magazine devoted to Apiculture. Free sample, together with Book on Bee Supplies and Book on Bee Culture to all who mention this paper when writing. THE A. I. ROOT CO., - MEDINA, OHIO.

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MANN'S GREEN BONE CUTTER.
MANN'S GRANITE CRYSTAL GRIT.
For Poultry. Cash or installments.
F. W. MANN CO., MILFORD, MASS.

\$5 Hand Bone, Shell, Corn & Grit Mill for Poultrymen.
Daisy Bone Cutter, Power Mills.
Circular and testimonials free.
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Shoemaker's Almanac and Poultry Annual for 1898 is the finest, best and most comprehensive work in its class ever published. It gives many fine illustrations with descriptions of the largest and best poultry farms in the country. It tells all about Chickens, their care and management. Gives remedies for the cure of Cholera, Roup, and all common diseases among fowls. It tells you how to make money with small capital. It tells you how to become successful in raising chickens. Gives best and most convenient plans with full illustrations of how to build good substantial Poultry Houses with least amount of money. It gives full description with finest illustrations of all leading and most noted prize winning strains of pure bred fowls. It gives lowest prices of poultry and poultry supplies. It is the book of Books in its class, containing 96 pages of best book paper brim full of information from cover to cover. The front cover is printed in beautiful colors. Sent to any address for 15 cts. Address C. C. SHOEMAKER, FREEPORT, ILLS., U. S. A.



Hens Make Money

under proper conditions. Those conditions are defined in our **MAMMOTH NEW POULTRY BOOK and CATALOG** for 1898. Bigger & better than ever before. Printed in colors; cuts and description of all leading breeds of fowls; poultry house plans, tested remedies, prices on poultry, eggs, etc. Worth \$5, sent postpaid for 15 cents in stamps or coin. **The J. W. Miller Co.** Box 162, Freeport, Ill.

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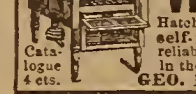
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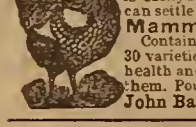
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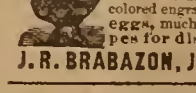
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Queries.

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Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Bronze Turkeys Wanted.—D. W. S., Mulberry, Tenn. Write to the poultry-breeders who advertise in this paper. See page 6.

Alfalfa Culture.—T. J. R., Delina, Tenn., and others. Request the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. to send you Farmers' Bulletin No. 31. Alfalfa, or Lucerne.

Cutting Corn-stalks.—J. L. B., Cedar Falls, Iowa, asks: "Do you consider it practicable to cut dry corn fodder by hand in a cutting machine?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—It depends on the number of animals you keep. I feed my two horses and two cows stalks cut by hand right along. During winter, time is not so much of an object, and besides it takes little over half an hour a day to do the cutting, and one man can easily attend to the job when you have a good cutting box. Of course, I do not believe in feeding a great lot of coarse stuff, but prefer to use only a moderate quantity, made rich by mixing in plenty of ground feed, oil-meal, etc.

Incubators and Brooders.—D. P. South Lyndeboro, N. H. I forgot about my promise to give plan and description of home-made brooders in these columns. There is plenty of time, however. In next issue I will try to make my promise good. In regard to incubators, I can say that there are a large number now on the market with which one can hatch chicks successfully. I have one and am fairly successful with it. It is a 100-egg machine, and I only regret that it is not a 200 or 300 egg machine. It is no more trouble to take care of the larger size, and hatch from 130 to 200 chicks, than it is to manage the smaller size and hatch only 50 to 75 chicks. Infertility of eggs is the prolific source of poor or low percentage hatches.

Crossing Jerseys and Ayrshires—Feeding for Lean Pork—Feeding Whole or Ground Corn.—J. P. M., Niantic, Conn., writes: "I sell cream and butter to families. I have high-grade Jersey cows, but do not like their color and delicate constitution. How would it do to cross them with a thoroughbred Ayrshire bull to get red color and hardiness?"

Will feeding hogs corn one week, then bran and some milk one week, and so on, alternately, for two months previous to killing, cause a streak of fat and a streak of lean in the side-meat? Which is more profitable to feed to fattening hogs, ear corn or corn and cob meal?"

REPLY:—The cross you name would give you mixed colors for many years to come. You could get red color sooner by crossing your grade Jerseys with a Red Poll. But what does the color amount to anyway? Your business is the profitable production of cream and butter. Test each one of your cows. Select the best, and use a pure-bred Jersey bull of sound, vigorous constitution. With proper care and feeding, and with stables properly ventilated, there is no trouble in keeping Jerseys healthy and hardy. Lean streaked pork is not produced by alternate feeding, but by providing proper rations continuously. Feeding corn alone makes an excess of fat. A mixture of corn, wheat, bran and skimmed milk will produce the kind of meat desired. The alternate feeding idea is a modification of the Irishman's notion of feeding his pig one week and starving him the next to get a streak of lean and a streak of fat. Circumstances must determine whether it is more profitable to feed ground or whole corn. We think it would pay you to grind it moderately fine and feed it mixed with wheat-bran and skimmed milk. And, if while fattening, the hogs have the run of a good, fresh grass pasture, the quality of the pork will be further improved.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries must always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

A Paralytic Hog.—S. H. M., Birdseye, Ind. Please consult recent numbers of this paper.

Choked.—D. B. S., Millville, N. J. Your horse, according to your description, was choked, and when down became relieved.

A Kicking Cow.—G. R., Ellsworth, Maine. If your cow kicks without any cause while being milked, the best way will be to have her hobbled while you are milking.

A Lame Colt.—I. R. B., Hay Springs, Neb. If you apply the term "knee-joint" to the hock-joint, there is hardly any doubt that your colt is lame with spavin. See FARM AND FIRESIDE of November 15th.

Foot Amputated by a Barbed Wire.—W. R., Westfield, N. D. It may not be impossible to keep your colt alive, but as the whole hoof, including the third phalanx, or so-called coffin-bone, the navicular-bone probably, too, and all other parts inclosed within the hoof, have been lost, the colt will never be a serviceable animal.

Elephantiasis.—C. D. H., West Concord, Vt., and E. B. A., Middletown, Conn. What you describe has resulted in elephantiasis, which, in one case of six years', and in the other of six months' standing, is incurable. Such horses, if otherwise well cared for, may be used for slow work, but the swelling and degeneration are permanent.

Full of Worms.—C. Y., Ann Arbor, Mich. If the intestines of your hog were, as you say, full of worms eight to twelve inches long (probably ascaris suis—you failed to give any

description of the worms by which they might be identified), it is not impossible that the same constituted the immediate cause of the death of the animal. If the worms were ascaridae, the hog must have had access to water contaminated with the worm-brood. Shelled castor-beans mixed with food are considered a good remedy. The dose each meal is from one half to four drams, according to size and age of hog.

A Lame Mule.—W. M. L., Alton Hill, Tenn. All that proceeds from your description is that your mule is lame in both fore feet, and has an abscess in her left fore foot, which may, and may not, be the result of a suppurating corn. If no good veterinarian is accessible, have the mule examined by a good horseshoer, and then, if he finds corns to be the cause of the lameness, let him cut out the corns, dress the holes with absorbent cotton saturated with a resinous tincture (tincture of aloes, one to four will answer), and then, after the holes have been filled and tightly packed with the absorbent cotton, let him shoe the mule in such a way that there is no weight and no bearing upon the sore parts. The shoes must be reset and the dressing be renewed inside of a few weeks, and after the lameness has entirely disappeared, once every month.

Malignant Edema—Lateral Opening in a Cow's Teat.—T. B., Janesville, Cal. The disease of your colts, according to your description, must have been malignant edema, a disease caused by a pathogenic bacterium, known as the bacillus of malignant edema. The treatment of this disease is principally a surgical one and consists in making incisions into the swelled parts so as to give access of atmospheric air, and in applying disinfectants to the subcutaneous tissues, because the bacteria which constitute the cause and are at present in the connective tissues, but not in the blood as long as the animal is alive and the blood is supplied with oxygen, are anaerobic (cannot live where oxygen has access). As to the lateral opening in the teat of your cow, cauterize the opening with a stick of lunar caustic as soon as the cow is dry, but not before.

Mange in Cattle.—C. H., Miller, S. D. What you describe is, almost beyond a question, a case of mange in cattle. Unfortunately, the winter is an unfavorable season for the treatment of such a disease, especially in a northern climate. If your herd is only a small one, and you have a good stable in which your cattle can be sufficiently protected against the cold of a Dakota winter, it may be possible to apply the necessary treatment. It is as follows: First give every cow a thorough wash with soap and warm water; this done, before the animals are perfectly dry give each a thorough wash with a good, warm tobacco decoction, one pound of strong and cheap tobacco to two and one half or three gallons of water, or with a solution of one pound of creolin (Pearson's) in three gallons of warm water. (I cannot prescribe the quantity of fluid needed, because I do not know how many head of cattle have to be treated, but give in the above only the proportions required.) The washes are best applied with a good, stiff brush. Immediately after the washing the stable and stable utensils must be thoroughly cleaned, and the stanchions, ropes, etc., or whatever else is used to tie the cattle, or what comes in contact with them, must be washed the same as the animals themselves. In five or six days the whole treatment, except the wash with soap and water, must be repeated. Under ordinary circumstances, one repetition of the treatment, if executed in a thorough manner, is sufficient, but as you live in a northern climate, and have to treat your cows in the midst of the winter, and in a season in which mange of cattle is always much worse than in the summer, I consider it advisable to give all your animals one more thorough wash; repeat the treatment next spring when you drive them out into field or pasture. At the same time, once more clean your stable in a thorough manner so that there may be no danger of a reinfection next fall.

Swine-plague.—J. T., Hitman, Iowa. According to your description it must be presumed that all your premises are thoroughly infected. Therefore, as the swine-plague bacilli (the bacteria or germs) that cause the disease possess great vitality, are preserved and remain alive on moist organic substances, on which they are not exposed to light and fresh air, for five years or longer, I advise you to dispose of all your diseased and infected hogs, to thoroughly clean and disinfect your premises by burning all rubbish, corn-cobs, etc., by removing or burning all old straw-stacks and scattered straw, hay and weeds, and by hauling off all manure heaps and scattered manure, etc., to some piece of land where it can be made use of and be plowed under, and to drain and dry up all mud-puddles and stagnant water-holes. After this has been done, so that every piece of ground where swine are intended to be kept is perfectly clean and bare, and fully accessible to the influence of sunlight and fresh air, and every sty or pen has also been thoroughly cleaned and, as much as possible, been likewise exposed to the influence of sunlight and fresh air, your premises will become reliably disinfected in a few months, and then next spring, perhaps, you may procure a new stock of swine, of course, from a perfectly healthy herd. But when you have done this you must not allow your new herd of swine to run all over creation, but keep them confined to your clean and disinfected premises, must not allow them any access to infected water, for instance, in a run or creek that comes from an infected place, and must prevent any communication whatever, no matter whether direct or indirect, between your herd and other infected or diseased animals. Further, you and all the members of your household, and even your live-stock, dogs included, must keep away from infected herds and infected premises; neither must persons and animals coming from infected premises be allowed any access to the lots, yards, fields and pens, etc., where your hogs are kept. If all this is strictly complied with, and no infected food or water is given to your swine, nor any bloody operation is performed or any wound produced on any of them at a time when the disease is prevailing in your neighborhood, you will have a good prospect of keeping your herd of swine free from swine-plague (so-called hog-cholera). I say "a good prospect," and not "absolute certainty," because in a state so thoroughly infected as Iowa there are yet other means of infection which you can neither control nor guard against. I admit it is not easy to apply all these precautionary measures, none of which can be dispensed with without incurring the danger of making all others futile. Still, if they are too much for you, there is one other effective means of prevention; namely, protective inoculation. The same, however, is applicable only to animals not only not diseased, but also not infected. Neither must the operation be performed on infected premises where the inoculated animals are immediately exposed to an infection, because the immunity from infection and subsequent disease is not at once produced, but requires about twelve days to develop. After that, exposure does not bring on the disease.



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Our Farm.

GARDENING IN THE ISLAND OF JERSEY.

BY E. W. MAJOR.

BEFORE we consider the subject of gardening in the Island of Jersey we might, perhaps, take a bird's-eye view of the island itself. It rises abruptly from the sea to a height of three hundred to four hundred feet on the north-west side, then slopes gradually toward the south and southeast to where the land is on a level with the sea, and at very high tides when the wind is from the south the water often washes over part of the coast. The chief town, St. Helier, lies on the southern border, and at a short distance from the town we see Elizabeth Castle, which has been the scene of stirring times since it was built, in the reign of good Queen Bess. To the right of the town is Fort Regent, which with its grass-clad ramparts presents a somewhat attractive appearance. If we look off to the southeast coast of the island we see the village of Gouray, and high above it Mount Orgeuil Castle, part of which was built by Cæsar. The island we see at once is small, being about fourteen miles long and five or six miles wide, containing about 28,700 acres, not all of which can be cultivated, and upon this must be supported a population of a little over 60,000 persons.

If we now come down and take a walk through the country, visiting some of our gardener friends, we notice here some woodland which as yet the ax has spared, there a fertile valley well watered by streams that wander lazily along and eventually find their way to the sea; then an orchard will come into view, and we notice that the farmer also uses this for a pasture for his cows, which are tethered there and moved once or twice a day. As we come around a bend in the road a house is brought into view, a solid, substantial-looking dwelling, its heavy stone walls looking as though they were intended to withstand a siege. The roof is either thatch or tile. Gloire de Dijon roses, clematis and jessamine twine around the doorway and clamber to the moss-covered roof. In the garden, acacias, oleanders and magnolias bloom to perfection, and the fuchsia almost attains the size of a tree, the largest specimens rising to a height of fifteen to eighteen feet.

Back of the house you might notice a patch of something, it would probably puzzle you to say just what. Visitors seeing these objects for the first time have thought they were stunted palms, but not so; they are nothing more nor less than the big cow-cabbage, or Jersey cabbage. The stalks vary in length from six to twenty-five feet, and the cabbage, which makes good food for the cows, is at the top. The stalks serve for a variety of purposes; the short ones are used for making fences, while the long ones are mounted and sold to tourists as curiosities.

If it is the latter part of May or the beginning of June when our visit is made, almost the first subject of conversation would be the potato crop. This is the most important crop the Jersey gardener has; even the Jersey cow sinks into significance beside the potato. The best animal in the herd might die of milk-fever, and there would not be half the consternation that is caused by a frost coming when the potatoes are about an inch or two above ground. And when we consider that there are about \$2,000,000 worth of potatoes exported annually, and that, if good prices are to be obtained, these must be put on the market before the French and English potatoes are ready, we can see what harm a frost does.

The ground that is to be planted to potatoes is generally manured, and the manure plowed under in the winter. Planting takes place early in January, and a Minnesota gardener who is used to the potato-planter would be surprised if he could see a Jersey man planting. The potatoes are planted at intervals of nine inches, in rows that are about fourteen inches apart. The farmer marks off the rows with a line, and then proceeds to dig a trench with his spade; a boy goes along and sprinkles a small amount of guano in the trench, and is followed by another boy who places the potatoes in their proper position, which is rather a delicate operation, as the potatoes are always sprouted in a cellar, and care must be taken not to break these sprouts. The line is now moved back fourteen inches and a new trench dug, the first being filled from the soil of the second,

and soon throughout the whole field. The land is kept carefully cultivated, and weeds are seldom seen. The potatoes are hilled up in the rows.

The latter part of May the harvesting of this important crop begins. If you were to go down to the harbor some evening about that time, you would notice many boats coming in—sailing-boats mostly—and by their rigging you would know that they were French trading-boats, but their cargo is a human one. They are bringing French laborers over to help in the harvest, and as they come ashore you might wonder how it was possible to stow them all away in so small a space, but they manage it somehow, and Breton peasants are not particular. Most of the laborers carry forks, a few of them scythes, and the women have several long rolls of French bread. As a rule, they are good workers, and as the number of those who come over lowers the price of labor, the gardener can afford to have quite a few helpers.

Digging now commences; the men dig, and the women and children pick up and sort the potatoes, which are then carefully packed in barrels and taken to town. Six hundred to seven hundred bushels an acre is a good yield. If we follow a load to market, a busy scene meets our eye; every road that leads to the harbor is full of vans heavily laden with barrels of potatoes. Around the harbor everything is in a bustle, and in the height of the season you may see as many as thirty large steamers into whose holds the potatoes are being stowed with as much speed as possible. They are then carried to London, Liverpool, Hull or Southampton.

After the potatoes are dug, some cereal, such as wheat, is planted, and this is followed by roots, among which the parsnip, a favorite food for cattle, is conspicuous. Thus the land is sometimes made to yield three crops in one year.

Vegetables of all kinds, broccoli, cauliflower, peas, beans, asparagus and small fruits, strawberries, gooseberries, currants, all grow well, and plums, peaches and apricots, when grown against the sunny side of a wall, bear profusely. In addition to these, apples and pears grow plentifully, and the Jersey pears, especially the Chaumontelle and Louise Bonne, are famed in England.

All over the island you would notice glass houses. One company alone has over thirteen acres under glass, and from here enormous quantities of the choicest grapes are shipped annually. This is a profitable crop, for early in the season grapes will bring from seventy-five cents to one dollar a pound in London. Besides the grapes, this company has shipped in a single season one hundred tons of tomatoes, fifty tons of potatoes and twelve tons of peas and beans. In recent years the Jersey gardener has awakened to the importance of his calling, and there are two societies there, the Jersey Horticultural Society, and the Jersey Gardeners' Society, both of which by offering prizes at the different shows for choice and new specimens, and by means of papers on subjects relating to horticulture, do much to help him.

DISCUSSION.

President J. M. Underwood—What is the area of the islands?

Mr. Major—About 28,000 acres, more or less.

Mr. Wyman Elliot—What is the price of labor there?

Mr. Major—About twenty-two or twenty-three cents a day.

Mr. Kellogg (Wisconsin)—The practical point seems to be in planting potatoes nine by fourteen inches apart. If we have got land that will produce anything like that, the point is close culture, close cultivation, big crop and big pay. The practical point is to raise that big crop.

Mr. Elliot—And no pay.

Mr. Kellogg—Well, we work for nothing, and our wives board us. (Laughter.)

Dr. Frisselle—I understand you to say that the potatoes were hilled up. How is that done?

Mr. Major—They generally just bank them up. They have a hoe something like a double-plow, with one man ahead and another one behind.

Dr. Frisselle—Any bugs there?

Mr. Major—Well, there are no potato-bugs, but there are others. (Laughter and applause.)

Dr. Frisselle—What is the language of the islands?

Mr. Major—French and English.

Mr. Elliot—What is land worth?

Mr. Major—About \$2,000 an acre.—From Report of Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

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Our Fireside.

LIVING.

"How to make lives worth living?"

The question haunts us every day;

It colors the first blush of sunrise,

It deepens the twilights last ray.

There is nothing that brings us dearer pain
Than the thought "We have lived, we are living,
in vain."

We need each and all to be needed,

To feel we have something to give

Towards soothing the moan of earth's hunger;

And we know that then only we live

When we feed one another as we have been fed
From the hand that gives body and spirit their bread.

Our lives, they are well worth the living

When we lose our small selves on the whole,

And feel the strong surges of being

Throb through us, one heart and one soul.

Eternity bears up each honest endeavor;

The life lost for love is life saved forever.

—Lucy Larcom.

THE INFINITE ARTIST.

Not a flower

But shows some touch, in freckle, streak or strain,

Of his unrivaled pencil. He inspires

Their balmy odors, and imparts their hues,

And bathes their eyes with nectar, and includes

In grains, as countless as the sea-side sands,

The forms with which he sprinkles all the earth;

Happy who walks with him! Whom what he finds

Of flavor or of scent, in fruit or flower,

Of what he views of beautiful or grand

In nature, from the broad majestic oak

To the green blade that twinkles in the sun,

Prompts with remembrance of a present God.

—Cowper.

THE OWNER OF BENTON FARM

BY MARY WILLIAMS IRWIN.

CHAPTER II.

THE SURPRISE.

THAT evening, after John's return from Sciotoville, his mother noticed that he was unusually silent, seeming to be preoccupied with his own thoughts. Whenever Mrs. Benton observed her son in this mood she never addressed him, knowing, from her own experience, that when one wished to do a little quiet thinking it was a great annoyance to be obliged to reply to questions and remarks. But Norah Bain was not so scrupulous in this respect with regard to others, and at the supper-table she continued to talk to John in spite of the fact that she received only monosyllabic responses.

At last, however, John turned to his mother. "I've been thinking all the afternoon about Cousin Jim," he said.

She looked at him in a startled way,

"Why, what has caused you to think of him? Anything particular?" she asked, nervously.

"Oh, no; I just got to thinking of him, somehow. It wouldn't be at all surprising if he came back sometime, would it, mother?"

"It would be surprising to me," replied Mrs. Benton. "He's been gone too long for us to expect that he'll ever come back."

"Only a little over eight years. That is not very long."

"But it's not likely he'd ever let his father or any of us know, at least, where he is, if—if he's alive."

"I believe he's alive, mother, and that he'll come back some day."

"Oh, I hope not," said Mrs. Benton, quickly. John looked at her in surprise.

"I mean it, John," she said, returning his look steadily, while her voice had a hard ring in it. "I don't exactly wish him dead, but I hope he'll never come back. It would spoil everything for us if he should. It would change all your prospects in life. It would take everything from you that is or ought to be yours. You were a son to his father, and he was not. It is no more than right that you should reap the reward of your conduct. And since he's stayed away so long, I hope he'll always stay away—if he's alive."

"Well, I'm sure I don't want him to come back if he's dead," said John, humorously.

Mrs. Benton got up from the table and went out of the room.

"Poor mother!" said John, musingly. "It would be rather hard on her to leave this place, as she would probably have to do if Jim ever comes back. It has become like home to her, and she never had much of a home before. But I always liked Jim, and if he should come back I'll cheerfully abdicate in his favor. Everything is his by right, and Uncle John wished him to have it all, even if he did run away. I don't care how soon he comes back."

"What will you do then?" asked Norah.

"Oh, there's a nice somewhere in the world for me," answered John, cheerfully. "By the way, Norah, I saw our tramp again to-day."

"You did? I haven't seen him for two months," said Norah.

"You wouldn't know him now if you should see him. He was dressed up, and was driving along the road in a fine buggy like a gentleman."

He tossed Mr. Croly's card to Norah, who read it with a look of surprise on her good-natured face.

"Why, what does it mean?" she asked. "It means that he was not a tramp at all—only pretending to be one."

"Well, that's queer," said Norah.

"Yet, it is, rather. I'm puzzled a good deal by his maneuvers. In the first place, I cannot see why he should have acted the tramp as he did. In the second, he told me that he did not intend staying in Ohio, and now he has started in business at Sciotoville. In the third, as I was coming home past Mrs. Dalton's, I saw him and Clara in the parlor together. They were sitting quite near each other, like old friends, and they seemed to be engaged in earnest conversation. And then Mrs. Dalton came in, and she spoke to him as if she was well acquainted with him. I wonder if they used to know him. But they never said anything about him to me, and Clara does not speak of him now when we meet. There seems to be a mystery connected with him, and I'm awfully puzzled by it."

"Mebbe he's a relation o' their'n that they're ashamed to own," suggested Norah.

"He might possibly be; that's so," said John, his face clearing.

He rose from the table, and in a few moments his gay, cheery whistle could be heard coming from the woodshed, along with the sound of the ax spitting kindlings for the cook-stove.

When Mrs. Benton left the dining-room she went up-stairs to her bedroom and remained there a long time. It was a neat, pleasant little room, and Mrs. Benton took a great deal of pride and satisfaction in it; that is, as long as she did not think of the possibility of James Benton's return to claim the property.

To a woman like Mrs. Benton the bitterness and uncertainty of her position was galling in the extreme. When a proud, high-minded girl she had married James Benton, her friends had considered her most fortunate in securing a husband who possessed, as an inheritance, a heavy bank account, as well as hundreds of acres of the best land in Ohio. His brother John had an equal share, but he "was of a different turn" from James. He took care of his inheritance, while James "run through" with his in various ways. He moved about a good deal; he was extravagant in his expenditures, and he disliked work. So that in a few years it came to pass that James was almost a beggar, while John was one of the richest men in the country. Then James died, and Mrs. Benton and her son found themselves dependent on the bounty of her husband's brother.

But John Benton was very generous and liberal in his dealings with his brother's widow and her son, who had been given his own name, just as his own had been given James' name. He loved his nephew, he thought, sometimes, almost better than his own son, with whom he had many quarrels. James hated the farm, and it was nothing new to him to be told by his father that he was "the triflingest boy that ever lived." On the contrary, John satisfied all his uncle's requirements of what a boy ought to be. He loved farm life; he was obliging, industrious and economical. The two spent many happy days together, while the breach between father and son widened with each year of the latter's growth, until, when he was sixteen years old, he ran away from home and had never been

told herself that these last months were the happiest of her life.

John, however, could not have said the same with regard to himself. If he had been asked, and had been disposed to be confidential, he would have said that he was immensely troubled about James Croly's visits to Clara Dalton. How the fellow got acquainted with her he could not imagine; he supposed it had been by means of the "cheek" which had once carried him through the "role" of tramp. And the worst of it was that notwithstanding Mr. Croly's evident audacity, he was manifestly a gentleman, and John, in spite of everything, could not help liking him. By a few skillful questions put to Miss Dalton, John had learned that there was nothing in Norah's theory that Mr. Croly was a relation of whom she and her mother might possibly be ashamed. He was not a relative, and they had never seen him until this summer. So the second and third causes of John's puzzlement concerning him were removed, and John scarcely ever thought of the first. He merely said to himself that if Clara liked Mr. Croly better than she liked him, he could not blame her. Mr. Croly was much the better looking chap of the two, besides being a great deal cleverer; and while John thus humbly acknowledged his rival's superiority to himself, he did not, on that account, cease his visits to Miss Dalton. But his fine spirits were dashed, and the summer seemed less bright than other summers had seemed. If he had never learned to do so before, he was now learning to think seriously of life, and to comprehend the fact that it held for him something of sorrow as well as of joy.

While time was thus passing for John and his mother, his cousin, Maud Henderson, was perfecting some cherished plans of her own for his pleasure and enjoyment. Maud had been his playmate and friend from childhood. She was bright and vivacious, and entered heart and soul into all the various affairs of life appertaining to the country. Particularly did she enjoy a picnic or a surprise party, even though the weight of responsibility for its existence rested upon her own shoulders. All summer she had it in her mind that her cousin's twenty-first birthday must be honored by the largest party that had ever been given in the county, and she thought of it and anticipated so frequently the happiness and glory of the event that she could scarcely wait the arrival of the natal day. Mrs. Benton approved of the plan, and in the first week of October she issued her invitations and began her preparations with great zeal and industry.

John, of course, was to be kept in entire ignorance of the proceedings, and so well did the girl manage that not a whisper of them reached his ears. Maud often laughed to herself as she pictured his surprise, and anticipated her own delight on beholding it.

"He'll be the most surprised boy you ever saw," she told Mrs. Benton, in great glee.

"He will that," Mrs. Benton replied. "The poor fellow never had much made over his birthdays, and he'll never think of such a thing as this."

Mrs. Benton sighed gently as her thoughts went back to the unhappy past, but they soon passed away in the joy and interest of the present.

Mrs. Benton was careful to have it understood by the invited guests that they were not to bring eatables with them, as was the custom there on the occasion of a "surprise."

"I will furnish the dinner myself," she said. "If any one wishes to bring a little present as a token of friendship and good-will to John, they can do so; but no one need fetch any victuals."

It was contrived that most of the cooking was done at the houses of several obliging neighbors, so that when the day arrived everything was in readiness for the grand dinner. And John had not the slightest inkling of it, which in Maud's estimation was the "sine qua non" of the whole affair. The fifteenth day of October was warm and bright as summer. In the morning Mrs. Benton sent John over to Sciotoville, ostensibly to buy much needed groceries, but really to get him out of the way. She urged him to be back by eleven o'clock, saying that she wanted some of the things for dinner. Of course, as had been arranged, the guests began to arrive before that hour, and stowing their horses and vehicles behind the large barn and other buildings, waited in happy expectancy the appearance of the hero of the hour.

He was met at the gate by his mother, who, while receiving from him the basket of groceries, said:

"Hitch the horse a minute, John. There's a man in the parlor who wants to see you. He's in a hurry. Go right in."

John obediently did as he was bidden. Imagine his astonishment when upon opening the parlor door he was greeted with a perfect storm of salutations and congratulations from a mass of people inside the room and on the porch outside the door leading into the back yard. Maud Henderson could have asked for no more as she saw his face; it turned exceedingly white, and for a few moments he seemed bereft of the powers of speech.

"My birthday!" he stammered at last. "Is this my birthday? I did not know it."

"Yes, John, this is your birthday, and these kind friends have come to wish you many happy returns of it," said Mrs. Benton, gently laying her hand on his arm.

She looked into his face with tears of joy



HE WAS GREETED WITH A PERFECT STORM OF APPLAUSE.

MRS. BENTON WOULD HAVE FALLEN HAD HE NOT CAUGHT HER IN HIS ARMS.

In that event the room would be no longer hers; there would be no quiet place to which she could retire for a season of rest and quiet thought when weary with work or troubled with care. Many peaceful Sundays had she spent there, reading or writing or enjoying the rest which seems so different from that of any other day. The thought of losing this room, and of ceasing to be mistress of this large, commodious house often obtruded itself upon her mind, and formed the element of bitterness in her otherwise contented life.

She often wished she was like John concerning this thing. He never troubled himself about it; he never worried about the probability of some time being "turned out of house and home" by the real heir to the estate. He knew that his tenure of ownership was precarious, but as long as he was undisputed master he meant to perform his duty as if he really always expected to be. He meant to let the future take care of itself. Besides, he said he knew that if Cousin Jim ever came back he would be just, and treat him fairly, and that was all he had a right to expect from him.

Mrs. Benton's countenance, as she sat still in a low rocker by the window, wore a very sad and troubled expression. Her son's words at the supper-table had disturbed her greatly. She wondered what had caused the light-hearted boy to speak thus seriously of his cousin, whom, in his intense interest in everyday happenings, he was content to let alone. She feared that something out of the ordinary had brought the absent man to his mind and stirred it with thoughts of disinheritance as grave as those which so frequently disturbed her own.

heard of since. John was twelve at the time. Immediately afterward Mr. Benton invited John and his mother to come to the big house to live. James' mother had died when he was six years old, but nobody was ever lenient enough, in judging his faults, to ascribe any of them to her loss.

Mrs. Benton always remembered with a thrill of joy what a comfort her son had been to his uncle after James' disappearance. For a few years the old man was very bitter against his son, and drew up a will disinheriting him and leaving all his property to John. As time went on, however, his wrath must have cooled, or else he was moved by stricter ideas of justice, for just before his death he so altered his will as to make John the heir only in case his son never returned.

Under the circumstances, it will be seen that Mrs. Benton's fears as to the stability of her son's hold on the property were quite natural. How did she or anybody know that James Benton was not alive, and that he would not some day appear and oust her son from the place which she considered he had fairly earned? John had been a son to the old man in everything which the word implies, except birth; while James had made himself an alien and an outcast, and was no more worthy to be called his son. So Mrs. Benton reasoned, and so it was that she spent many miserable hours dreading James Benton's return to the home of his father.

As if, however, this last "spell" of brooding thought had exhausted Mrs. Benton's fears, her mind became quiet, and a feeling of peace settled upon her. For a long time nothing occurred to disturb her serenity of spirit. The summer passed and autumn came, and she

and pride in her eyes. The sight of them brought the moisture into his own eyes, and for a few moments the mother and son stood close together with clasped hands, unable to utter a word, while the people looked on with smiles of sympathy which had in them something allied to their own deep emotion.

His momentary weakness passed, and John raised his head and greeted his guests with outstretched hand and words of welcome. He caught sight of Clara Dalton in a corner, and his eyes and smile grew brighter, and his voice and manner became still more frankly joyous. He omitted no one from the hand-shaking, going out among those on the porch, and even entering the hall and dining-room in search of stray or belated guests.

Suddenly there burst forth the sound of music, and the Sciotoville band filed into the hall and played one of its most stirring pieces. Afterward there was dinner. The tables, as the local papers put it in their next issue, "literally groaned under their weight of good things."

John was happy, but not happier than his mother. After dinner the presents were looked at, and a list of them, together with the names of their donors, was prepared for the Sciotoville "Herald" by the local correspondent.

Then the company adjourned to the lawn in front of the house, and seated on chairs and benches and on the grass, listened to some more music by the band. This was followed by cries for a speech from the young master of the farm.

A speaker's stand, or platform, was quickly improvised from a carpenter's bench taken from John's workshop. It was placed between two trees at the lower side of the lawn, near the fence. With the help of a chair John mounted the platform and responded to the demands of his guests in a few well-chosen words of so witty and cordial a nature that everybody was charmed. Laughter, applause and cheers accentuated his little speech from beginning to end. There were speeches from others, alternated with music, and altogether the occasion seemed to be one of great happiness and rejoicing over the event of the young master of Benton farm having reached his majority.

Maud Henderson, seated beside Mrs. Benton on the broad stone step at the front door, thought she had never seen anything quite so fine and picturesque as this scene on the lawn. Certainly it had never been seen before on Benton farm. There were at least two hundred people seated about in the shade of the trees, sometimes talking and laughing, at others, listening to the music and speeches, which they applauded with hearty good-will.

"I declare," said Maud to Mrs. Benton, "it is just like what I have read about the young lords over in England when they come of age! And not one in all England, lord though he be, could be handsomer or more noble-looking than John."

"No, indeed," said Mrs. Benton, looking proudly at her son. "And he's as good and noble as he looks."

"And he never was happier in his life than he is to-day," added Maud.

"He is as happy as he can be," replied Mrs. Benton. "And I am, too."

Maud smiled contentedly and turned to listen to the next speech.

All things sublunary must come to an end; and so the day waned and the guests were getting ready to go home. Some of the vehicles were already drawn up in the road in front of the house, and the people were standing about in groups listening to a final effort of the band. John and his mother were at the gate, to which they had accompanied an old couple who did not care for music, but were anxious to go home. As they drove away, a shining buggy, drawn by a sleek black horse, stopped quite close to the gate. With a crash the music ceased. John extended his hand to the occupant of the buggy, saying, heartily:

"Good-evening, Mr. Croly. I am glad to see you. Won't you alight and come in?"

But Mr. Croly did not reply. He was looking at Mrs. Benton, who was staring at him with a frightened expression in her eyes and a swiftly paling cheek. Seeing that she attracted Mr. Croly's attention, John introduced them.

"My mother, Mr. Croly. Mother, this is Mr. Croly, of whom you have heard me speak."

"She is ill, is she not?" asked Mr. Croly, with visible anxiety in tone and manner.

John turned, and none too soon, for Mrs. Benton's tall form swayed and would have fallen had he not caught her on his arm.

"Mother," he exclaimed, "what is the matter? Are you sick?"

Mrs. Benton's face was very white, and she trembled visibly. For a moment she could not speak; then, making an evident effort, she stammered:

"No—yes—yes, I am ill. My heart—it's my heart. I'll soon get over it. I've had it before. It's nothing."

"Let me help you into the house," said John.

"No, no; I'll soon be better. I will sit down awhile until my heart gets to acting properly."

John led her to a seat, and stood beside her fanning her, while sympathizing friends crowded around.

"What is the matter?" they asked in a chorus.

"Oh, nothing much," answered Mrs. Benton, cheerfully. "My heart took a notion to thump

a little too fast, that's all. It has a fashion of doing it, sometimes."

"The excitement's been too much for you, I expect," said one.

"It was not the excitement; I have not been a bit excited. I only need a little rest and I shall be all right."

In this cheerful manner Mrs. Benton replied to all inquiries concerning her indisposition, so that the guests presently departed, assured that nothing serious ailed their estimable hostess.

In the confusion created by Mrs. Benton's temporary illness, John did not see Mr. Croly assist Miss Dalton into his buggy and drive away. It was as well that he did not, for the sight would have marred what to him had been a gloriously happy day. And it was perhaps well for his peace of mind that night that he did not know what the morrow would bring forth. He slept sweetly, and dreamed of beautiful music and of making a speech which commanded the applause of the whole world.

As for Mrs. Benton, she could not sleep. She lay on her bed, quiet for the most part, but every little while breaking the silence with a faint moan and the whispered words:

"Oh, my poor boy! my poor boy!"

But thought was busy in her brain, and toward dawn a definite conclusion concerning the thing that troubled her was formed in her mind. The conflicting thoughts and emotions which had kept her wide awake all night were now reduced to one in which a positive determination acted like oil upon troubled waters. At the usual hour she arose and went about her work in the energetic, methodical way characteristic of her.

But as soon as John had left the house to visit a tenant of his living at a distant point on the farm, she ordered Norah Bain to "hitch" Dan to the cart. She wanted to go to Sciotoville, she said.

Norah was used to orders of this kind from her mistress, and unquestioningly did her bidding. When she drove around to the gate, Mrs. Benton was ready, and immediately took her place in the cart. Giving the steady but strong old nag freely of the whip, she fairly skimmed over the ground. The six miles of road to the county-seat were soon left behind.

[To be continued.]

HOW TO REPAIR A SHIRT.

With a despairing sigh I threw aside the half dozen shirts, with their worn bosoms, their rough collar-bands and frayed wristbands, although the muslin was perfectly whole. I shrank from the difficult task of replacing the old bosoms with new ones, the price of a bosom being about half the value of a shirt.

As I was about to consign them to the box which contained clothing for the poor, it suddenly came over me how very poor I was, that worn-out linen should threaten to rob me of my sleep and fill many of my waking hours with such disturbing thoughts. So, with another sigh—of acceptance of my lot—and a feeling that I ought to be more grateful for the love of such a man, and accordingly glad of the privilege to even mend his linen, I gathered up the shirts again more tenderly perhaps than they had been laid down. I buried my fretfulness and resorted to devices, which enlarged as the work went on, until I found myself thoroughly interested, if not entertained.

The shirts were washed for the purpose of removing every vestige of starch, then ironed smoothly. A different course was followed with each one, according to its need of repairs. If the neck-band was worn beyond repair, it was ripped off and a pattern taken from it; this was a very careful piece of work, for almost everything depends upon the size and shape of the neck-band.

Then instead of removing the old bosom, which was entirely whole around its outer edge, there was cut a shield-shaped piece of linen to reach down as low as the vest-opening, and correspondingly wide, the curve at the neck being carefully followed, allowance being made for the plait in front. This was laid over the old bosom, copying the plait by pressing the new linen under folds of the old plait. After basting, the whole thing was stitched with exceeding nicety. Here was a new bosom, and not one quarter the time or the material consumed as in the old way.

In case the buttonholes of the neck-band were whole, and the band simply worn at its edge, it was loosened only in front, where the new linen of the bosom was to be placed, then restitched, and its upper edge bound with a fine linen tape.

Wristbands in the same condition were smoothly trimmed off and similarly treated, except that a very much wider braid was used, which, instead of following the rounded ends, was finished off straight, a generous turn-in being allowed, so as to make the corners sufficiently thick. Where new wristbands are needed it is better to cut off the old ones, thus affording a fresh place for the gathers. Muslin was used for both neck and wristband. The back yokes were strengthened by a narrow tape stitched across their lower edge. If their linings looked weak, a new one of cambric was stitched over the old.

One pair of sleeves, which was a little thin about their lower edge, were re-enforced after the wristband was removed by a strip of very light-weight muslin of the required depth. Another suspicious-looking pair was cut off at the elbow and pieced down with the same muslin, the join made by a wide flat fell, which certainly looked no worse than the tuck, so often a necessity. Should one not be an adept at making buttonholes, there are women in every neighborhood who would be glad to do the work at two cents apiece.

After they were all completed, I had a little uncertainty as to whether such immensely repaired linen would be appreciated. I sent them to a laundry, for I wanted them to look their very best on their first appearance.

I was more than gratified; for I watched my husband closely, and at first he thought they were a new half dozen shirts. The re-enforced bosoms especially took his eye, and he asked, "Is this a new style?" I faintly answered that it was, and becoming bolder as I saw it was not condemned, added that it was my style. He then congratulated himself on being able to wear "the latest thing out." And later, when he said that these shirts were not only satisfactory, but were the most interesting ones he had ever worn, I was fully repaid for my labor.—Harper's Bazar.

EVERYTHING COMES HIS WAY.

Everett Wreist—"If ye was in circumstances so dat ye had to work, wo't yer ruther do?"

Sunburned Sammy—"Well, it allers kind o' struck me dat if I had got ter do somet'ing, I'd 'bout as soon be de hero in a novel as anyt'ing."

A Total Disability Claim of \$1,650 Paid to a Man Who was Afterward Cured.

The *Monitor*, a newspaper published at Meaford, Ont., Canada, first discovered this case two years ago, and published it at length, which now seems, owing to the cure of it, to be a miracle. The facts were so remarkable that many people doubted the truth of them. They said: "It is too remarkable; it cannot possibly be true; the paper is mistaken, and the man, although he may think himself cured, will soon relapse into his former condition," etc., etc. The accuracy of its report called in question, the *Monitor* determined to find out definitely whether the facts were as stated and whether the man would really stay cured. They accordingly kept a close watch on the case for two years after the first article appeared, and have just

vent him from opening his mouth sufficiently wide to take solid food. The doctors called the disease spinal sclerosis, and all said he could not live.

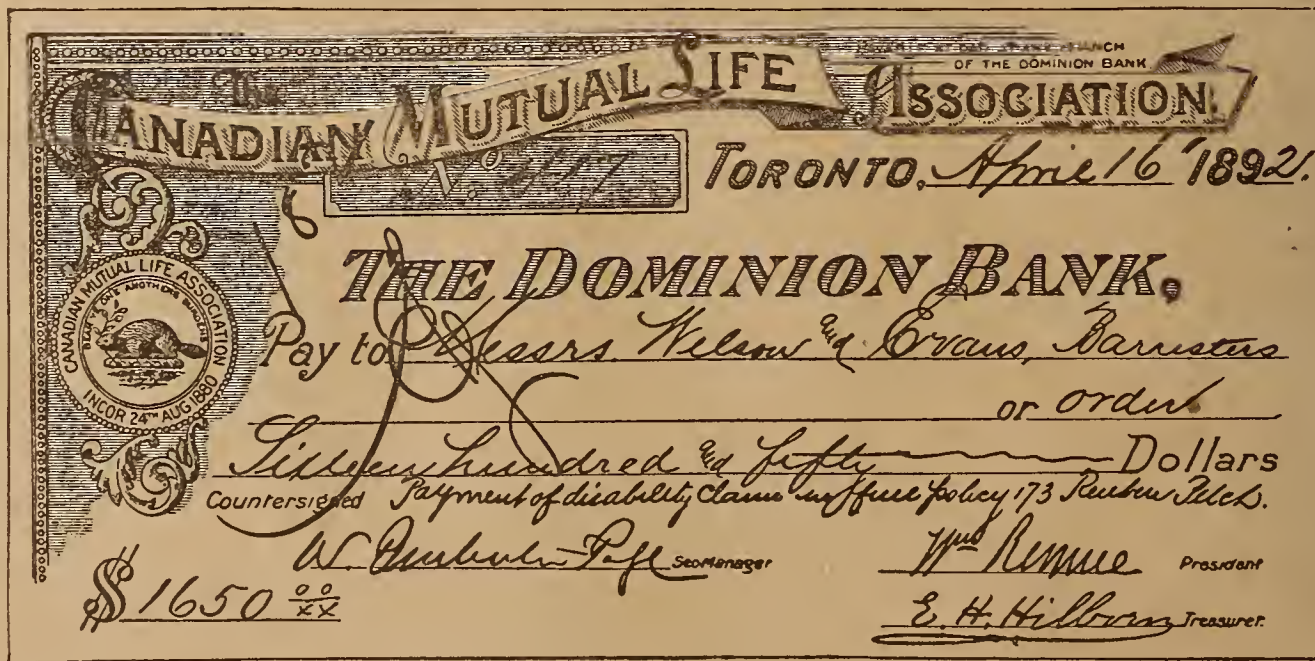
For three years, he lingered in this condition. Then by some friends he was advised to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. He took them and there was a slight change. The first thing noted was a tendency to sweat freely. This showed there was some life left in his helpless body. Next came a little feeling in his limbs. This extended, followed by prickling sensations, until at last the blood began to course freely, naturally and vigorously through his body, and the helplessness gave way to returning strength, and he was restored to his old time health.

moment. Indeed I am in even better health than when I gave you the first interview."

"Do you still attribute your cure to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills?" asked the *Monitor*.

"Unquestionably I do," was the reply. "Doctors had failed, as had also the numerous remedies recommended by my friends. Nothing I took had the slightest effect upon me until I began the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. To this wonderful medicine I owe my release from the living death. I have since recommended these pills to many of my friends, and the verdict is always in their favor. I shall always bless the day I was induced to take them."

Such is the history of one of the most remarkable cases of modern times. Can any



now published another article about it in which the original reports are completely verified, the cure is permanent, and they publish a fac simile of the check given by the Canadian Mutual Life Association for \$1,650.00, amount of total disability claim paid by them to Mr. Petch.

The first account stated that the patient (see address below) had been a paralytic for five years, that there was such a total lack of feeling in his limbs and body, that a pin run full length could not be felt; that he could not walk or help himself at all; for two years he was not dressed; furthermore that he was bloated, was for that reason almost unrecognizable, and could not get his clothes on. The paralysis was so complete as to affect the face and pre-

The above is the substance of the first article published by the *Monitor*. Now follow some clippings, taken from the same paper two years afterward, and there is not the slightest shadow of a doubt, in view of this testimony, that Mr. Petch's cure is permanent. Here follows the account:

On being again questioned, Mr. Petch said: "You see those hands—the skin is now natural and elastic. Once they were hard and without sensation. You could pierce them with a pin and I would not feel it, and what is true of my hands is true of the rest of my body. Perhaps you have observed that I have now even ceased to use a cane, and can get about my business perfectly well. You may say there is absolutely no doubt as to my cure being per-

one say, in the face of such testimony, that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are not entitled to the careful consideration of any suffering man, woman or child? Is not the case in truth a miracle of modern medicine?"

To make the evidence complete we publish above a fac simile cut of the check received by Mr. Petch from the Canadian Mutual Life Association, being the amount due him for total disability. It is unnecessary to add that this life insurance association did not pay this large amount of money to Mr. Petch, except after the most careful examination of his condition by their medical experts. They must have regarded him as forever incurable.

Mr. Petch's address is as follows: Reuben Petch, Griersville, Ont., Canada.



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WHAT WIVES SHOULD REMEMBER.

That Adam was made first.
That "he pays the freight."
That "blessed are the meek."
That nine men in ten detest gossip.
That all angels are not of your sex.
That confidence hegets confidence.
That men sometimes have "nerves."
That there should be no place like home.
That it takes two to prolong a family jar.
That the least said is the soonest mended.
That with all his faults you love him still.
That you should have no secrets from him.
That husbands have troubles of their own.
That he's "all right" when you know him.
That woman's best weapon is her weakness.
That home is more than half what you make it.

That he is just as anxious to get rich as you are.
That six pairs of slippers are enough for any man.
That his typewriter cannot help it if she is pretty.

That he likes to hear that the baby is his dead image.

That wives are unusually favored in this country.

That a man likes neatness in your attire at all times.

That "a baby in the house is a well-spring of pleasure."

That he is not in love with every woman he glances at.

That there are letter drop-boxes on the near-by corners.

That you should not run up bills without his knowledge.

That candy in excess is worse than rum in moderation.

That she who puts on the gloves should know how to spar.

That it is policy to let him believe he is "lord and master."

That your relationship is closer to him than to your mother.

That 8 P. M. is 60 minutes past 7 o'clock, not 15 minutes to 9.

That he does not get sleepy the same moment that you do.

That a prompt and pointed answer does not turn away wrath.

That you can't keep books, and there is no use of your trying.

That you should not expect him to light the fire in the morning.

That he expects you to look your best when you go out with him.

That it does not improve his razor to use it for chiropodical purposes.

That house-hunting is not reckoned by the average man as a pastime.

—Boston Globe.

WHERE THE PINS COME FROM.

Where do the lost pins go? That question is not as easily answered as is the question where they come from. At Birmingham, England, there is a factory where 37,000,000 pins are manufactured every working-day. All the other pin-factories together turn out about 19,000,000 pins every day. Taking the population of Europe at 250,000,000, every fourth person must lose a pin every day to use up the production of pins made in a day.

THE WAY TO HANG A HAMMOCK.

The ideal way to hang a hammock is to place it six and a quarter feet from the ground at the head, and three and three quarters at the foot. The rope that secures the head should measure about one foot—it is better to be less—and at the foot about five times that. The object of this is to keep the head comfortable, by being nearly stationary, while the lower part of the hammock will swing freely.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES.

The most eastern part of the United States is Quoddy Head, Maine; the most western is Attou Island, Alaska; the most northern, Point Barrow, Alaska, and the most southern, Key West, Florida. The geographical center is therefore about 420 miles north of the northern boundary of Montana, and about 280 miles east of San Francisco.

A Denver philanthropic inventor has come to the rescue of stay-out-lates with an illuminated keyhole. The man who returns home after a late supper "at the club" has only to push a button by the side of the lock, when the keyhole is at once illuminated by electricity. All that remains for him to do is to insert the key, turn it, and enter the house. Still, the device is incomplete, for there is no illumination for the button, and the man who has partaken too copiously of pickled salmon, may experience as much difficulty in finding the button as in finding the keyhole. Nevertheless, it is a step in the right direction. Now, if somebody will invent a staircase that will not creak when one ascends it, even without boots, late o' nights, another advance will be made toward insuring the peace and happiness of the domestic hearth.—Boston Herald.

Dr. Abernethy says that "no person can be persuaded to pay due attention to his digestive organs until death stares him in the face."



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Our Household.

HOW ONE FARMER'S WIFE EARNED A NEW GOWN.

BY MRS. J. C. CRAWFORD.

One September day, when I went into town, Every woman I met had on a new gown. Thinks I to myself, "as sure as fate, I have nothing to wear that is up to date." My skirts are too scant, my sleeves are too small,

I really must have a new suit this fall. How I might earn it I could but wonder, And for several days did the question ponder, Till I noticed the apples under the trees, That were shaken down by the autumn breeze When green, and golden, and russet, and red; They lay midst the leaves so brown and dead. I could pick up apples as well as a boy, And on bright afternoons would the work enjoy;

If a boy was hired, I'd have him to board, To pay me instead the good man could afford. But when they were gathered so few were sold, It didn't add much to my pile of gold. So I looked about for more to do, When the corn-field happened to meet my view;

Down near the orchard, all summer long Its stalks had been growing tall and strong, Looking like bannered hosts, with spears, Guarding the growing golden ears; Till I heard the farmer say one morn, "We'll begin to-day to cut that corn." Near by the field was my favorite walk, So I watched while they cut it stalk by stalk, Till they set it up, and bound it fast, And left it standing in stooks at last, Midst golden pumpkins, thickly strewn, While Autumn played her harvest tune, And winds and sunshine had their way, Ripening and drying it day by day; Till at last it was ready to harvest home, Then I saw the farmers with wagons come. So full that both barns were running over, Besides, there was more than the shed could cover.

So much husking to do is a task indeed, And I thought a great deal of help he will need; In this way perhaps some money I'll earn That into a stylish new gown I can turn. So when milking was done, pigs and calves all fed,

Away to the barn with my husband I sped, Where I helped with the husking till nine or half past,

But alas, that job not long did last. If a red ear was found he gave me no kiss, So now at the husking my help he will miss; For to strip off the husks made my fingers so sore,

The good man declared I should husk no more.

So the husking you see was a failure, in part, And once again I must make a new start. Next time I tried the greengrocer's trade, Not expecting by it much could be made. Every garden gave such abundant supply, There was scarcely any one wishing to buy. One little pie pumpkin I sold for a nickel, And half a peck of green peppers for pickle. Beets, carrots and parsnips I sold just a few, But with cabbage and onions I had nothing to do.

If I don't know beans I am sure I might, For I picked them by day and shelled them at night,

Till the rattle of beans, and the crackle of pod, Pursued me even into the valley of nod. I thought to sell beans I'll surely be able, They are used so often on every one's table. But I found that scheme didn't work very well,

For most of my neighbors had beans to sell. So I helped to gather the nuts and pears, And sold what I could of both on shares. I sold a few eggs to friends in town, And added their price to the fund for my gown.

I have earned enough nickels and dimes, I believe, To buy the material, save perhaps one big sleeve.

For making and fixing, I can soon earn the pay,

I know, for "where there's a will there's a way."

Pastureland Farm.

HOME TOPICS.

CRANBERRY PIE.—Last summer I gave a recipe for currant pie made with an egg. Now I can tell you that cranberry pie is delicious when made in a similar way. Chop the cranberries, add to a half pint of the chopped berries add a teacupful of sugar and a beaten egg. This makes one pie, and may be baked between two crusts; or to the cranberries add one cupful of sugar and one whole egg with the yolks of two, and bake in one crust. In the latter case, beat the whites of the two eggs to a stiff froth, with a tablespoonful of powdered sugar, spread it over the top of the pie and return it to the oven long enough to brown it very slightly.

COOKING DRIED APPLES.—Many people think dried apples are not fit to eat. Of course, if they are poor, tasteless things before they are dried, they will not be good

afterward, but good, ripe apples dried quickly by the stove or in an evaporator, and then properly cooked, make a sauce both palatable and healthful.

Look the dried apples over carefully and cut out any bit of core that may have been left in, then wash them thoroughly and put to soak in cold water, using about three times as much water as apples.

Let them soak over night, then set the kettle on the back of range where they will heat gradually. Let them boil slowly until tender, which will not be very long, then add enough sugar to sweeten, let them boil up two or three minutes, and they are done. Do not stir the apples while they are cooking, keep the kettle covered, and add boiling water if it cooks away—enough to keep the apples about covered and have plenty of juice when they are done.

LANDSCAPE-GARDENING AS AN OCCUPATION FOR WOMEN.—Bee-keeping, flower and vegetable gardening and fruit-raising are occupations which have been successfully and profitably followed by women. Why should not landscape-gardening be added to the list? Certainly women have enough artistic talent and perception of the beautiful in form and coloring to become good landscape-gardeners if they have the proper training. At least one young lady, Miss Edna Sintermeister, of St. Louis, has decided to adopt landscape-gardening as a profession. When very young she was interested in botany, and was always eager in studying all plant-life. She is now studying along the line of her future work in Washington University, St. Louis, and goes every morning to Shaw's garden, where she superintends the work in two greenhouses, directing the arrangement and care of the flowers. Miss Sintermeister has an artistic taste and a love for her work, which, with her energy and executive ability, will insure her success in her chosen profession. MAIDA McL.

SLEEVE-HOLDER.

Now that the sleeves are becoming smaller, the old difficulty arises of getting into one's coat easily without taking the dress-sleeves to the elbows. Use one and one half ounces of gray zephyr, medium-sized steel needles, cast on twelve stitches, and knit a long strip in garter-stitch, with a buttonhole at each end. Slip the thumb into this hole, wind the garter around the arm, fasten with the other buttonhole end, draw on the sleeve, and release the garter. Keep it in the coat pocket to have it always ready. REX.

WALK ASHORE!

A YOUNG WOMAN'S PERIL AND HER PILOT.—HOW SHE DRIFTED INTO DANGER, AND HOW SHE WAS SAVED.

It all happened at one of those pleasant seaside resorts, where life is comedy from day to day, and tragedy has no place. She just stepped on the raft, which she thought was moored, and in pure idleness of mood fell to rocking it from side to side, as she watched the white sails shining in the sun, far out at sea. But the raft was not moored. Her rocking had slowly dislodged it from the sand on which it was grounded, and when she turned around she was



"WALK ASHORE."

afloat, and the shore a rod behind her. She cried for help, and was heard by a lonely fisherman who sat at some distance on the beach mending his nets. How slowly he got up! How slowly he tramped across the sandy shore! And she was drifting, drifting, drifting! "Save me!" she cried: "save me!" as the old man came to the water's edge. The grizzled mariner raised his hand to the side of his mouth and cried hoarsely, "Walk ashore!"

Walk ashore!

That's all there was of it. She was still in shoal water. All she needed was the timely word of instruction and advice. But suppose it had not come? Suppose she had not heeded it? Was there no danger? The open sea, a frail raft and a frail woman! There are all the possibilities of a tragedy in these. Many and many a drama of the sea has been played on a smaller stage.

The woman on the raft is a type of hundreds of thousands of her sex who are drifting into danger. Up to a definite day, a given hour, even, they have been enjoying life in perfect security. Then, in a moment, a sense of impending danger comes. They realize that they are at the mercy of disease, as dangerous an enemy to the body as the great sea and its tempests are to a raft. Every day increases the danger. They are drifting, drifting, drifting away from peace of mind and ease of body to that silent sea where hope and help can never come. Then comes the cry for help. To thousands of appeals there has come the answer from Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y.,

WALK ASHORE! WALK ASHORE!

You are still in the shallow waters of disease. You can still get back without more than inconvenience to the land of health behind you. All you need is just the right word of advice and common sense instruction in time, and the grip of a helping hand. That is just what Dr. Pierce offers to every one suffering from disease—timely, health-restoring, life-saving advice, practical help. It requires some confidence to take advice when your own senses are against it. The woman on the raft could not see the bottom of the roily water, and the land looked so far away. So the woman in disease can't see how she can be cured, and recovery of health seems hopeless. And perhaps the very disease that has begun to threaten her is consumption, that dreadful disease regarded by millions as incurable. Her local doctors perhaps say, "We can make your suffering a little less, but there's no hope." There is hope. Who says so? The man who knows the whole sea of disease has sounded it, diagrammed it, described it and charted it in his great work, the Common Sense Medical Adviser, a million, two hundred thousand (1,200,000) copies of which have been supplied to American homes, where this Dictionary of Disease and herald of health is regarded as a veritable "Bible of the Body." On what ground does he say it? On the ground of a record of cures covering tens of thousands of such cases. Were they sure enough cases of consumption? That's what the doctors said and the patients said. What did Dr. Pierce say? He said they were cases of "walk ashore." You can understand that. You can't drown in shoal water unless you are scared to death. It's the scare and ignorance that speed the consumptive on his way. He may be in shoal water, but he doesn't know it, and just gives up his

GRIP ON LIFE.

When Dr. Pierce says "walk ashore," he says it in the knowledge that those words have been New Life to a host, doomed by fear and friends and ignorance and physicians to a consumptive's grave. Does Dr. Pierce claim to cure consumption? That question isn't worth arguing. Look at the record. Take a case in point. Here is a man (or woman) with a hacking cough, a hectic flush, night-sweats, great emaciation or wasting of flesh, spitting of blood, shortness of breath and all the other symptoms. After every remedy and every local physician has failed, he, as a last resort, takes "Golden Medical Discovery" and the cough vanishes, the cheek gets back its natural color, sleep becomes sound and refreshing, the spitting of blood stops, flesh and muscles become firm, weight increases, and life goes along in quiet and comfort to the full limit of the three score years and ten.

But may be it wasn't consumption after all? May be it wasn't. You know it was something that was attacking the very citadel of life, and it was something that was cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. And Dr. Pierce is curing such "somethings" right along with a record of over a quarter of a million cases, and not more than three per cent. of failures.

One fact, at least, is well established. That the "Golden Medical Discovery" does cure weak lungs, bleeding from lungs, obstinate, lingering coughs, laryngitis, bronchitis, throat disease, and kindred

affections of the air passages, which, if neglected or badly treated, lead up to consumption, can no longer be doubted in view of the many thousands of well established cures of such cases reported by the most trustworthy citizens. Many of these cases have been pronounced consumption—and incurable—by the best local physicians before the sufferers commenced the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

Whether the doctors have erred in their judgment in these numerous cases or not is not for us to decide.

Suppose we put some of these so-called "incurables" in the witness box. Let us call Mr. John Brooks, of Boylston, Worcester Co., Mass. (Sawyers Mills), who says: "I write to you to tell you of the great benefit I have received from Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. About a year ago I was taken with a bad cold which settled on my lungs. The doctors said I was in consumption and could not get well. I took Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil and it did me no good. After taking it four months I heard of your 'Golden Medical Discovery' and wrote to you for advice. I have taken your medicine and it saved my life. I felt so sick when I wrote to you I thought I would not live through the winter."

And here's another witness. Mrs. Emily Howe, 7 Park Avenue, Chicago, Ill., writes: "About two years ago my son was afflicted with what seemed to be symptoms of consumption. I purchased three bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and it cured him completely. He is now in the best of health and we cannot recommend 'Golden Medical Discovery' too highly."

Still another witness writes: "I had a bad cough and got so low with it that I could not sit up." Thus writes Mrs. Mittie Gray, of New London, Union Co., Ark. She continues, "Our family physician told my husband that I had consumption. I had pains through my chest and spit up blood. I took your 'Golden Medical Discovery' and it cured me. It saved my life. I don't think anyone would die of consumption who would take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery."

Mrs. Lucy Stevenson, of Corinth, Grant County, Ky., says: "I will add my testimonial to your list for the good your wonderful medicines have done me. I suffered more for five years than tongue could tell. I took medicine from three doctors, but got worse all the time. I went to another doctor and he treated me for two years. He gave me help for a while; then I began to get worse. My lungs became affected. I suffered all the time with my head and lungs. My limbs and back would be so sore and stiff in the morning that I could hardly get up. I felt tired and had sore throat and coughed night and day. I also had congestion and inflammation of the womb and constipation. I was so weak I could hardly walk. Had pimples and blotches; hair fell out; had no appetite; swimming sensation in my head. I wrote to Dr. Pierce and described my feeling the best I could. I received an answer at once and started to take his 'Favorite Prescription' and 'Golden Medical Discovery' and 'Pellets.' I began to feel better before I had finished the first bottle. My health has been improving ever since. I work all the time and do not have any more trouble with my lungs, and my womb trouble is almost gone."

Don't accept any substitutes for Dr. Pierce's Remedies. The shadow of success is imitation. Imitation remedies don't cure, any more than the imitation banquets of the stage feed the hungry. You want a cure. Don't accept the shadow for the substance and "spend your money for that which is not bread."

GIFT TO OUR READERS.

That great chart of the Sea of Disease, known as Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, will be sent free to every reader of this paper who will pay the cost of mailing only. On this chart you may see the sounding of the Dead Sea of Sensuality, the Red Sea of the Blood, the Black Sea of Pain. Every rock and shoal and quicksand of the physical life is pointed out, and the route to health and happiness plainly indicated. It is a book of knowledge for every woman and every man. It reveals the hidden things of physiology and makes plain the darkest problems of disease. Send 21 one-cent stamps, to cover cost of mailing only, if you want this book in paper covers, at 1 cent in stamps for the stronger and more durable cloth-binding. Address: World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y. This great 1000-page Dictionary of Disease and Health formerly sold at \$1.50.

OUT OF MY SELF.

Out of my selfish self,

Oh, lift me up!

To live for others, and in living so,
To bear a blessing wheresoe'er I go;
To give the sunshine, and the clouds conceal,
Or let them but the silver sides reveal.

Out of my lonely self,

Oh, lift me up!

Though other hearts with love are running
o'er,
Though dear ones fill my lonely home no
more,
Though every day I miss the fond caress,
Help me to join in other happiness!

Out of my doubting self,

Oh, lift me up!

Help me to feel that thou art always near,
E'en though 'tis night, and all around seems
drear.

Help me to know that though I cannot see,
It is my Father's hand that leadeth me!

APRON LACE.

ABBREVIATIONS USED:—St, stitch; d c, double crochet; s c, single crochet; ch, chain.

Chain 86 stitches; turn.

First row—Skip 3 st, d c in each of next 11, *ch 2, skip 2, s c in next, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next*, repeat once; d c in next 6 st, repeat between stars twice, d c in next 11, repeat between stars five times, d c in next 2 ch 3; turn.

Second row—2 d c over 2 d c, *ch 5, d c in d c*, repeat four times; 11 d c over 11 d c (making 12 in all), *ch 5, d c in next d c*, repeat once; 6 d c over 6 d c (7 in all), *ch 5, d c in d c*, repeat once; 11 d c over 11 d c, ch 8; turn.

Third row—Skip first 3 st, d c in each of next 5, 6 d c in next 6 d c, *ch 2, s c in center of 5 ch, ch 2, d c in d c*, repeat once; d c in each st of 5 ch, 7 d c over 7 d c, d c in each of next 5 st, d c in d c (19 d c in all), *ch 2, s c under 5 ch, ch 2, d c in first d c; ch 2, skip 2 d c, s c in next, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next 6 d c; 1 d c in each st of 5 ch, d c over d c, *ch 2, s c under 5 ch, ch 2, d c in d c*, repeat three times; d c in next d c, d c in last st of 3 ch, ch 3; turn.

Fourth row—2 d c over 2 d c, *ch 5, d c in d c*, repeat twice; ch 5, 12 d c over 12 d c, ch 5, d c in d c, ch 5, 19 d c over 19 d c, ch 5,

space will be 5 ch, and working toward top, 2 ch, s c, 2 ch, d c constitutes space).

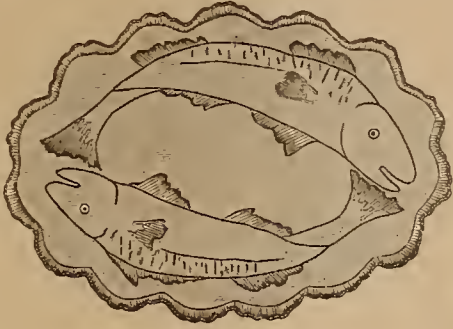
Seventh row—5 d c in 5 st of 8 ch, 6 d c over 6 d c, 2 spaces, 5 d c in 5 st, d c in d c, space, d c in next 18 st (19 d c in all), space, 6 d c in next 6, 2 spaces, 12 d c, 2 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch; turn.

Eighth row—Work back, spaces over spaces and d c over d c, ch 8; turn.

Ninth row—5 d c in 5 st of 8 ch, 6 d c over 6 d c, 2 spaces, 25 d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next, ch 2, skip 2, 25 d c, 2 spaces, 12 d c, space, 3 d c, 3 ch; turn.

Tenth row—Work back, at end of row ch 1.

Eleventh row—1 slip st in each of 7 st, ch 3, 12 d c, 2 spaces, 6 d c, space, 19 d c, space, 6 d c, 2 spaces, 12 d c, 2 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch; turn.



Twelfth row—Like tenth row.

Thirteenth row—Slip st in 7 d c, ch 3, 11 d c, 4 spaces, 6 d c, 4 spaces, 12 d c, 3 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch; turn.

Fourteenth row—Like tenth row.

Fifteenth row—Slip st in 7 d c, ch 3, 12 d c, 2 spaces, 19 d c, 2 spaces, 12 d c, 4 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch.

Sixteenth row—Like tenth row.

Seventeenth row—Slip st in 7 st, ch 3, 12 d c, 2 spaces, 6 d c, 2 spaces, 12 d c, 5 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch; turn.

Eighteenth row—Work back, ch 8 at the end.

Nineteenth row—D c in 5 st, and 1 d c in last d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next, ch 2, skip 2, 12 d c, 3 spaces, 12 d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next, ch 2, skip 2, 7 d c, 4 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch; turn.

Twentieth row—Like eighteenth row.

Twenty-first row—6 d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in last, ch 11, d c in first of 12 d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next, ch 2, 12 d c, space, 12 d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next, ch 2, d c in last of 12 d c, ch 11, d c in first of 7 d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next, ch 2, 7 d c, 3 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch; turn.

Twenty-second row—2 d c, 3 spaces, 7 d c, *ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, slip st in 3rd of 11 ch, slip st in next 6 st of 11 ch, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2*, 12 d c, space, 12 d c, repeat instructions between stars, 7 d c, ch 8; turn.

Twenty-third row—6 d c, *ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, d c in last d c, ch 11, skip 1 d c, d c in next, ch 2, d c in center of 6 slip st, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 11*, d c in first of 12 d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next, ch 2, 19 d c, repeat between stars, d c in first of 7 d c, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next, ch 2, skip 2, 7 d c, 2 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch; turn.

Twenty-fourth row—2 d c, 2 spaces, 7 d c, *ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, slip st in 3rd of 11 ch, slip st in 6 st, ch 2, d c in d c*, repeat once; ch 2, 19 d c, repeat between stars twice, ch 2, 7 d c, 8 ch.

Twenty-fifth row—6 d c, *ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 11, d c in next*, repeat twice; ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, 7 d c, repeat between stars three times, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, 7 d c, ch 1; turn.

Twenty-sixth row—2 d c, space, 7 d c, *ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, slip st in 3rd of 11 ch, slip st in next 6*, repeat twice; ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, 7 d c, repeat between stars three times, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, 7 d c, ch 1; turn.

Twenty-seventh row—Slip st in 6 st, ch 3, 2 d c under 2 ch, d c in d c, 2 d c under 2 ch, d c in d c, *ch 2, d c in center of 6 slip st, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 11, d c in d c, ch 2, d c in center of 6 slip st, ch 2*, 19 d c, repeat between stars, 7 d c, 2 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch.

Twenty-eighth row—2 d c, 2 spaces, 7 d c, *ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, slip st in 3rd of 11 ch, slip st in next 6, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, slip st in 3rd st, slip st in next 6, ch 2, d c in d c,

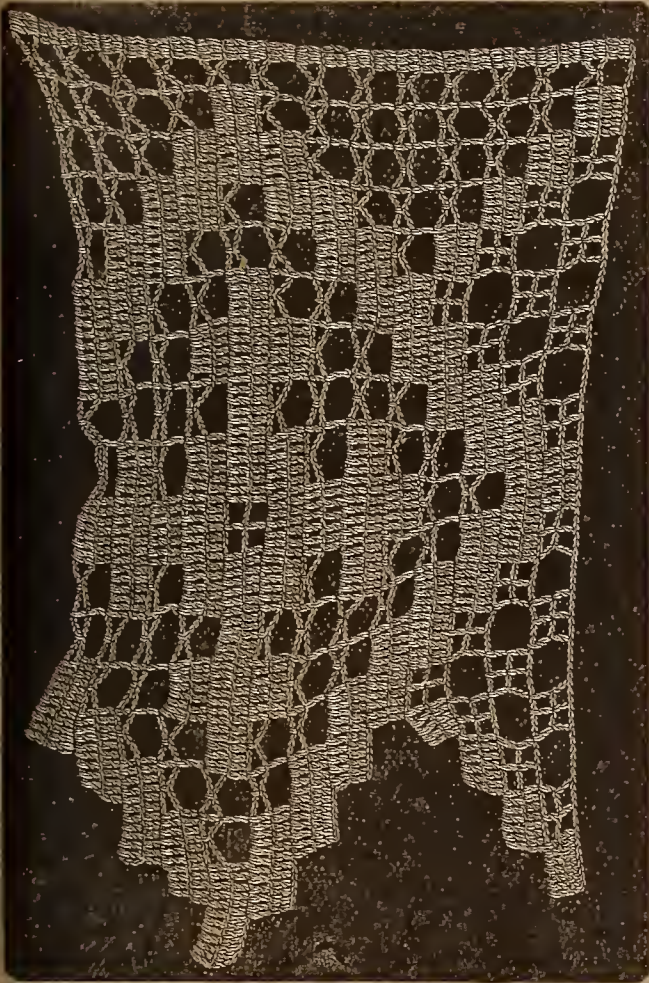


Divide a cake of Ivory Soap with a stout thread and you have two perfectly formed cakes of convenient size for the toilet.

A WORD OF WARNING.

There are many white soaps, each represented to be "just as good as the 'Ivory';" they ARE NOT, but like all counterfeits, lack the peculiar and remarkable qualities of the genuine. Ask for "Ivory" Soap and insist upon getting it.

Copyright, 1907, by The Procter & Gamble Co., Cincinnati.



d c in d c, ch 5, 12 d c over 12 d c (3 ch at end always answering for 1 d c), ch 8; turn.

Fifth row—D c in last 5 st of 8 ch, 6 d c over first 6 d c, ch 2, skip 2, s c in next, ch 2, d c in last d c; *ch 2, s c under 5 ch, ch 2, d c over d c*, repeat once; ch 2, skip 2 d c, s c in next, ch 2, skip 2, d c in next 7 d c; ch 2, skip 2, s c in next, ch 2, skip 2, d c in last, *ch 2, s c under 5 ch, ch 2, d c over d c*, repeat once; ch 2, skip 2 d c, s c in next, ch 2, skip 2, 12 d c in next 12 st, *ch 2, s c under 5 ch, ch 2, d c over d c*, repeat twice; 3 d c over 3 d c, ch 3; turn.

Sixth row—2 d c over 2 d c, *ch 5, d c in d c*, repeat once; ch 5, 12 d c over 12 d c, *ch 5, d c over d c*, repeat three times; 6 d c over next 6 d c, *ch 5, d c over d c*, repeat three times; 12 d c over 12 d c, ch 8; turn.

(Hereafter we shall call these openwork parts spaces; in working toward scallop the

ch 2*, 19 d c, repeat between stars, 7 d c; turn.

Twenty-ninth row—Slip st in 7 st, ch 3, 6 d c, *ch 2, d c in center of 6 slip st, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 11, d c in d c, ch 2, d c in center of 6 slip st, ch 2*, 12 d c, space, 12 d c, repeat between stars, 7 d c, 3 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch.

Thirtieth row—2 d c, 3 spaces, 7 d c, *ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, slip st in 3rd of 11 ch, 6 slip st, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2*, 12 d c, space, 12 d c, repeat between stars, 7 d c; turn.

Thirty-first row—Slip st in 7 d c, ch 3, 6 d c, ch 2, d c in center of ch, ch 2, 12 d c, 3 spaces, 12 d c, ch 2, d c in center of ch, ch 2, 7 d c, 4 spaces, 3 d c, 3 ch; turn.

Thirty-second row—2 d c, 4 spaces, 7 d c,

ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, 12 d c, 3 spaces, 12 d c, ch 2, d c in d c, ch 2, 7 d c; turn; slip st in 7 st, then repeat from first row.

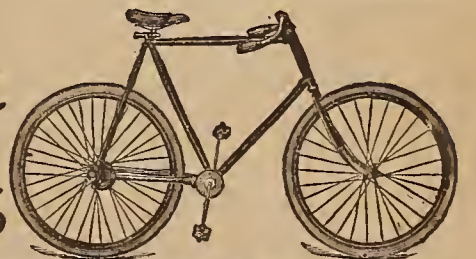
GRACE MCCOWEN.

FISH-SET.

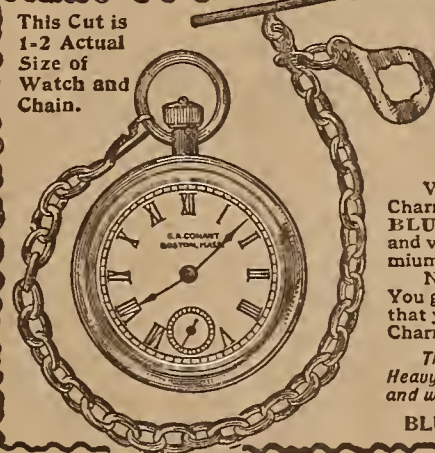
Any one who has the dishes for a fish-set will be pleased to see these doilies, as it is just the proper thing now to have the linen embroidered to match. The one illustrated was for a stag supper. The menu being salmon principally, the entire table was decorated to suit. The doilies were worked in shades of salmon fillos. The center doily was quite a large oval, the others being much smaller.

E. B. R.

Columbia Chainless



We will give an 1898 model Columbia Chainless Bicycle absolutely (Ladies' or Men's) to the person sending us the largest list of words made from the letters O-N-E-D-A-Y-C-U-R-E. For example: on, no, red, near, year, &c. Contest closes April 15th, 1898. The name and address of successful contestant will be mailed to anyone sending stamp for postage. **\$100. IN GOLD** given to successful contestant, if money is preferred to bicycle. Our object in making this liberal offer is to create a demand for our **OUNCE OF PREVENTION TABLETS**, the Great Cold Remedy and Headache Cure, an invaluable household remedy that should be in every home. Unfailing, Speedy, Safe. **Cures a Cold in one day! Relieves Headache at once. Prevents Pneumonia.** We are confident that once used you will never be without it. **TO ENTER THE CONTEST** no fee whatever is required. The only condition being that you must send 25 cent silver (or 27 cts. stamps) for a box of our **OUNCE OF PREVENTION TABLETS**, which will be sent postpaid, with a coupon giving the rules governing the contest, plainly & fully. Secure the coupon at once, and take plenty of time to make up your list. **SOMEONE will get the finest Chainless Bicycle made, absolutely Free. Why not YOU?** Mr. C. E. Wade, 3600 Fifth Ave., Pittsburg, Pa., received the bicycle given in our December contest. Address, **LEWIS & RUSSELL CO., Dept. S, 5 First Street, New York.**



Watch and Chain FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

We send this Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm to Boys and Girls for selling 1 1/2 dozen packages of BLUINE at 10c. each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Blaine, postpaid, and a large Premium List.

No money required. We send the Blaine at our own risk. You go among your neighbors and sell it. Send us the money that you get for it and we send you the Watch, Chain and Charm, prepaid.

This is an American Watch, Nickel-Plated Case, Open Face, Heavy Bevelled Crystal. It is Guaranteed to Keep Accurate Time, and with proper care should last Ten Years.

BLUINE CO., BOX 167, CONCORD JUNCTION, MASS.

Our Household.

WHEN IS A WOMAN OLD.

This query on my mirror hung:
"When is a woman old?"
It clings to me and long has clung.
The answer must be told.

Ah, some are old before half way,
And some are never old,
For these but laugh life's cares away,
While those both fret and scold.

And yet it is no easy task,
However well controlled,
To answer one, if she should ask,
"When is a woman old?"

The graceful ones are still young,
And those alone are old
Who try to make themselves look young
When age has taken hold.

The oldest ones of all the old
Are those who would look young,
For they will always fret and scold
When age's sign is hung.

The old in years who live among
Those younger in their hearts,
Will find themselves remaining young
Long after youth departs.

As long as women cling to youth
And disregard their age
They never can be old, forsooth.
Their youth fills up the page.

Yes, some are old before their time—
Old age usurps their youth—
And some are young beyond their prime
Unless they hide the truth.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LUNCH OR SUPPER.

THESE two meals are apt to prove the bane of the housekeeper's life. A certain routine is generally followed for breakfast. Dinner is always easy to prepare, but luncheon and supper are a perpetual annoyance. One must have something beside the usual bread and butter, cold meat and sauce. Our household magazines and the culinary departments of the newspapers are rich in ideas of how to prepare delicious meals from the "left-overs" of the preceding day's dinner, but there are not always any left-overs capable of being cleverly utilized. Just about half the time the distracted housekeeper finds a practically empty larder, or one bare of all possibilities, so far as this perplexing meal is concerned, except a cold chop, and her carefully treasured clippings are of no use to her.

It is for these days, when "something must be made out of nothing," that I have ventured to offer a few suggestions. One must always have bread on hand, or perhaps we had better say, nearly always. Granted, then, that there is bread in the house, try some fried bread for a seemingly hopeless lunch or supper. Dip the slices first in milk, to moisten well, then in beaten egg, and fry. Serve like griddle-cakes with syrup or honey.

Here is an improvement on old-fashioned milk-toast. Boil two eggs hard; prepare a rather rich milk gravy and add to it the whites of the eggs, chopped fine; dip the edges of the toast in hot water, arrange the slices on a platter, and pour the gravy over them; grate the yolks over the top, or better still, press them through a potato-ricer.

Creamed codfish on toast is another appetizing dish.

Oysters are better when served alone than when they form a part of a heavy dinner, and an oyster stew is almost a substantial meal in itself, and the same may be said of scalloped or fried oysters. Small oysters are nice served in this way: Place on slices of toast in a dripping-pan, season with salt and cayenne pepper, moisten with the oyster liquor and put bits of butter over the top; bake in a hot oven until the edges of the oysters are "ruffled."

Eggs are considered strictly a breakfast dish, but "stuffed eggs" help to fill out a scanty menu wonderfully, as does "egg bouquet," which is a pretty name for scrambled eggs served on lettuce-leaves.

A cheese soufflé is not the common dish that it deserves to be. Once tried, it is bound to be a favorite lunch-dish. For a family of six, take a pint of hot milk, grate into it sufficient bread-crumbs to make a batter, add the beaten yolks of six eggs, batter the size of a small egg, and salt to taste, with a dash of cayenne pepper, four tablespoonfuls of grated cheese (or more, if the cheese is mild), and lastly, beat in the well-whipped whites of six eggs; pour into a deep, buttered baking-dish, and bake fifteen minutes.

Let fried tomatoes take the place of cold

meat occasionally, and you will find them an agreeable change. Slice tomatoes that are not very ripe, and dip in egg and in cracker-crumbs, and fry in butter.

Scalloped tomatoes may be made of the canned as well as the fresh fruit. Put alternate layers of bits of tomatoes and cracker-crumbs into a baking-dish, having the top layer of crumbs; put bits of butter over the top, salt and pepper; pour milk over, and bake a light brown. Substitute canned corn for the tomatoes and you have an excellent hot dish for supper or lunch. Canned salmon prepared in the same way is also very delicious.

Old-fashioned fritters are somewhat frowned upon in these days of scientific housekeeping. As a steady diet, they are certainly to be condemned, but when one "can't think of a thing to eat," it won't ruin the health and happiness of the family to have them semi-occasionally. To a good recipe for batter-fritters add sliced apples, bananas, bits of canned peaches or other fruit; serve with maple syrup, and the majority of the men-folks will keep one busy to fry them as fast as they eat them.

Baked potatoes and chipped beef with milk gravy makes a substantial and tempting meal.

Boiled rice may sometimes be used in place of potatoes for a change.

"Potatoes au gratin" are nice for lunch. Peel and chop fine a few potatoes, put in a baking-dish with cheese, exactly as macaroni and cheese is prepared, and bake in the same way.

Soup is always best served for lunch. The milk soups are especially nice, and it does not necessitate a substantial meal, if one commences with a generous dish of some nourishing soup.

KATHERINE E. MAXWELL.

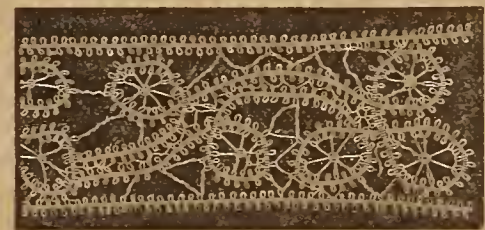
TARTAN BLOUSE.

Plaids always hold their own at least part of a season, and for young girls' wear can always form a part of that wardrobe. The tartan plaids are always especial favorites, and made like the illustration are very becoming. The trimming in narrow black velvet, military style, gives it a softened effect. They will serve to wear out skirts one does not care to carry over another season.

L.

THE MATERNITY QUESTION.

That many of the old-time and rut-worn theories cling tenaciously to many among us even yet we are well aware, and to express a progressive thought or idea upon certain important topics of general feminine interest we know to be very unpop-



ular. But the world is moving rapidly along on its wheels of enlightenment and progression, and we are thankful to a much maligned Creator that this is true.

The age is one of which we are proud, and we are glad that, if "destined" to live, it so happened that we were allowed to live in the present instead of through some of the years of the long-ago past. Even now the thought comes unbidden to mind, "born fifty years too soon."

If, in the present age, people have grown decidedly skeptical as regarding many things, it is simple proof of advancement, deeper study, clearer comprehension, and an exercising of better common sense and judgment. And we are glad for our race, and especially for our sex, that old ideas and superstitions are giving place to the greater enlightenment of the present, and to the past few years of more general study and unrest, and that men and women are not groping so "all in the dark," as it were, relative to the vital questions of life and living, as once upon a time they were.

Are we not sometimes ashamed of our

race, when we think of the many things that have transpired that have been called "the will of God?" In our intended reverence we have been irreverent—not meaningly, but ignorantly and superstitiously. All must admit that we have passed the age of tolerance, and that to-day there is small excuse for living uninformed.

The birth or the death of a child was not so very long ago considered "the will of God," pure and simple. That and nothing else. Many stand in the same beaten paths of reasoning yet. But a wonderful reasoning reformation has been worked, though



there is still great room for improvement in these, as well as in all lines. The young and the old die, and from very natural and traceable causes. And more often than otherwise are those causes, such as improper diet, exposure in some one or more of many forms, and accidents of various kinds. All must die eventually, we know. But some trespass upon the laws of health and nature is invariably the cause of sickness, invalidism, accident and death.

Another very fruitful source for "Providential" (?) happenings is that of bringing into the world a class of beings, doomed from their very inception to become criminals, paupers, invalids, or otherwise a curse or a burden to themselves, and no credit to themselves or their parentage—and doomed because of the circumstances surrounding, influencing and controlling them. "God sent them" is so frequently said. "It is the will of God" that they shall have lived and died, or lived and sinned, or that they shall have lived and suffered, we so often hear, just as the case may have happened.

Is it not as unjust to have thus "taken the name of the Lord, thy God," in vain, as when uttered in the form of an oath? For God did no such thing as to send into this world those countless thousands of wretched, diseased and suffering atoms of humanity. Do you believe that he glories in looking down upon such misery and wretchedness? Look the question fairly and squarely in the face and tell me, do you not agree that such an accusation in reference to a "just and loving God" is a libel and criminal shame?

It has become a form of speech with many, the saying that "God sent them," or that "God took them away." We have unthinkingly or from force of habit used perhaps the same delicate expression in speaking of "the loved ones God gave to her care," etc.

We read, not so very long ago, from the pen of a certain writer upon topics pertaining to woman and home, that "the women who were wives and not mothers were a disgrace to our sex." Is this true? Or are they not instead an honor to our sex, compared as they must be with the mothers all over our land, whose children are drifting into vice and living in degradation and sin, because of the abject poverty surrounding their lives, and because of the low-born parentage from which they sprung.

It is ignorance alone of the laws of perpetuity that is accountable for such beings having ever been born. Those babes, when babes, were not welcome ones. And from bad to worse, from their very birth they go drifting down and down. Did God send them? We think not. Because of all this ignorance and wretched state of affairs we

are obliged to look about us upon the dreadful condition of thousands of our "free-born American citizens." Is it an inspiring sight? And shall the doctrine of "multiply and replenish" still be preached, regardless of conditions?

Bear children, you who will. And as many as you choose, for there is no law of prevention. But do not be guilty of calling their coming "the will of God." It is just as reasonable to say of a neighbor who has never given birth to a child that it is the will of God that none has come to her, while in reality the reason of her having not assumed the responsibilities of motherhood is probably best known to herself. Physical disability or disinclination may either one be the cause. Nor is that for any one but herself to say. It is not of the affairs of her neighbors. We have each enough to do in this world to attend to our own, and it should be the undisputed right of our neighbors to attend to theirs.

We do not believe it a woman's duty to bear children. Under favorable conditions we believe it her right and privilege. Under unfavorable conditions of health and finance we look upon her rights in another light. The unborn child has also "rights" that should be respected. God placed the key of perpetuity in the hands of the human race, nor would we do him the great wrong to believe of him that, without consideration for the unborn, he demands of us that we perpetuate the race, regardless of the wishes of conditions, physically and financially, of women and men.

We believe that a child should be wished for and planned for or never be born. The welcome, longed-for child becomes a rich inheritance to its parents, its life flows smoothly along, and the child becomes a blessing to the world. To be sure, many an unwelcome child has been made welcome upon its arrival, and its life has grown to be a measurably happy and useful one. But God pity the thousands upon thousands of wretched, helpless, drifting mortals that have never known and never can know the sunshine of happiness or any degree of comfort. Our cities are full of them. Every hamlet and village has its share of them. The papers are daily filled with heart-sickening accounts of them. They drift on and on, lower and lower down. They simply exist for an indefinite time, daily sicken and die, while daily more of them are born into the world that has not need of them, and a world that does not afford them sustenance or one spark of brightness from beginning to end. Do you believe God sent them? I do not!

ELLA HOUGHTON.

CLOVER-LEAF EDGE AND INSERTION.

Feather-edge braid used as point-lace braid makes very pretty and durable lace for underclothing. The design submitted is simple, and needs no explanation save illustration.

GRACE MCCOWEN.

SOME THINGS ABOUT COUCHES.

Japanese matting is effectively used in some rooms to protect the walls above seats or couches that are without backs. It is laid flat, and finished by a picture-rail. Sometimes a curtain of plush or



China silk or a rug is a good background, and any one of these may be fastened to the rail by brass hooks. With a picture or cabinet above, a beautiful effect is easily gained. We are told that there cannot be too many cushions or pillows in a house, but feathers and down are as soft and expensive as "the times are hard." One bright young woman bought several pounds of curled hair, and filled one half dozen slips of ticking. She then drew over them other slips of heavy Canton flannel, and last of all, the outside covers. So many of her friends have refused to believe that she used neither down nor feathers in making the pillows, that she keeps one end open to convince them that their softness depends largely upon the Canton flannel.—Fashion.

FOR IRRITATION OF THE THROAT caused by cold or use of the voice, "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are exceedingly beneficial.

THERE ARE OTHERS.

She plays a stunning game of golf;
Is winner at the goal;
Looks captivating at the links,
And does not miss a hole.
But when the maiden tries her hand
At making pumpkin pie,
Her victims writhe in agony,
Give up the ghost and die.

—N. Y. World.

SOUPS.

Why is a food so easily prepared and so healthful so sparingly used in many farmers' homes? It does not take a "French chef" or New York caterer to prepare a palatable dish of plain soup. Neither is it necessary to have meat stock or broth for a foundation, although it may be an improvement when conveniently at hand.

CELERY SOUP:—In preparing celery for the table the green portion is usually cut off and thrown away, as it is of no use except in soups. Save this and cut into small pieces.

- One cupful of the celery,
- One half cupful of sliced potatoes,
- One small onion, sliced,
- Two quarts of water.

Boil all slowly for one hour, then season with salt, pepper and butter and a few tablespoonfuls of sweet cream. If cream is not on hand use a little milk and more butter.

RICE SOUP:—

- One half cupful of rice,
- One cupful of sliced potatoes,
- A small onion, sliced,
- One teaspoonful of celery-salt, or
- One half teaspoonful of celery-seed.

Boil in two quarts of water for an hour, then season with cream, salt, pepper and butter.

FIVE-MINUTE SOUP:—If there are cold vegetables, as potatoes and beans, or peas (canned ones are just as good), corn or rice left from the previous day's dinner, add warm water to soften, put through a colander, add a little sliced onion, celery-salt and sufficient water, with the usual seasoning. Boil five minutes, and you can have soup in short order. Beef broth always adds in flavor, instead of clear water, but it is not always to be had in the farmer's home, with the butcher-shop three miles away and no traveling meat-wagon. A little practice can devise various kinds of soup, but potatoes or rice are used for a thickening, and onions and celery or celery-salt are usually found in the flavoring. Some thicken soup with a little flour.

We farmer wives can often learn many table economies from our city cousins, where in careful homes every scrap of food is made useful in some way; this has no reference to scrapings of plates, but the bits left over, no matter how closely the meal was planned.

A roast turkey or chicken bones may be boiled for an hour or two in plenty of water and the liquor strained, and there is another excellent foundation for a soup. A small bowl of soup before a hearty meal is as beneficial to the stomach as a doctor's tonic.

GYPSY.

SOME TRIED RECIPES.

SUPERIOR FRUIT-CAKE:—

- One cupful of butter,
- Two cupfuls of sugar,
- One cupful of sweet milk,
- Three cupfuls of flour,
- Two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder,
- One pound each of seeded raisins,
- figs, blanched almonds,
- Half a pound of citron and currants,
- chopped fine.

Mix well, then add the whites of seven eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Flour the fruit before stirring it in, and add a spoonful of extract of lemon. Bake in a moderate oven, and try with a straw.

WHITE CAKE:—

- One cupful of butter,
- Two cupfuls of sugar,
- Two thirds of a cupful of sweet milk,
- Three cupfuls of flour, with two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder in the flour.

Beat all well; then add the whites of eight eggs that have been well beaten; beat well, and bake in lined greased tins. This makes four layers.

Make an icing as follows: One and one half cupfuls of sugar, one half cupful of water; boil until it is brittle when tried in cold water; pour this while hot over the well-beaten whites of two eggs. Beat it all until nearly cool, then flavor with lemon. For a change add raisins or any kind of nut kernels to the icing, and spread between layers.

C. C.



What to Eat and Not Have Indigestion

Two articles by Mrs. S. T. Rorer, the first of which is in the FEBRUARY number of the

LADIES' HOME JOURNAL

To be followed by the following series:

- When Unexpected Company Surprises You
- The Best Food for a Growing Boy
- Fruits as Foods and Fruits as Poisons
- The Right Food for Different Men
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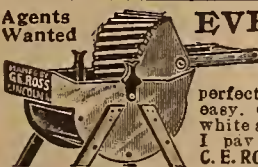
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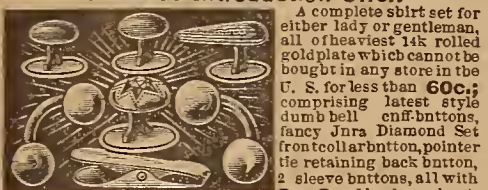
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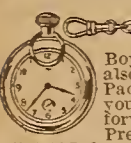
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Ready to respond this morning
To that mystic touch of thine!

Take us now, O great musician,
Give our lives the power to be
One inspiring, glorious anthem,
Telling forth our love to thee!

Thou, thyself, must strike the key-note
For its harmony to-day.
Grace to suffer; power for service;
Just our need, in thine own way!
—Charlotte Murray.

"IF CHRIST WERE TO COME NOW."

IF Jesus were to come now in New York, in London, in Chicago, were to appear on the western plains or in the Arabian desert, he would be reviled, persecuted, rejected, as he was in Judea. The assertion is made as if it were a triumphant indictment of modern Christianity. The assertion is to the last degree sophistical. Those who make it choose the manner in which the Christ should come. He must be a laborer, poor and despised, a fanatic, denouncing thrift, all accumulation of wealth, all established order and discipline, at war with pretty much everything that has been developed in civilization for two thousand years. Suppose such a man were innocent, guileless, and copied, as far as he understood it, the spirit of Christ, his attitude toward the sinful world, and tried to live his life! He would be treated as a fanatic, if he assumed a divine mission. He would fail, because the means he used were not adapted to the good ends he may have had in view. But what argument is there in that, what indictment of either civilization or Christianity? How should he get credence—how should he obtain belief? If it were known that Christ was incarnate on earth, doubtless he would receive universal homage in whatever guise he came. It is true that this is still a pretty bad world, and that it rejects its redeemers. It is true that some of the most self-sacrificing and noble reformers have long been reviled and maltreated. But, bad as the world is, it repents and sometimes knows its saviors, and it is not devoid of good sense; what it dislikes in a reformer is often the human in him, and not the divine. No doubt it would treat a man who had appearance of a fanatic as a fanatic. Even the church would do that, for the church cannot continue to exist without a certain order. We have been taught that Christ came in the fullness of time, and it must be assumed in the manner fitted to his purpose. The world has changed, has been changed, by his coming, and is not at all the same world in the nineteenth century that it was in the first. What trifling it is to conjecture that a "coming" now would not be with due regard to the condition of the world, that it would not be in a manner to carry belief?

The question of the appearance of Jesus in New York as he appeared in Judea takes two forms. First, what would be his judgment of the city? The question has only one possible answer. Doubtless his condemnation would fall most heavily upon the well-to-do and prosperous who have taken his name and do not his work. Doubtless the grief that he felt over Jerusalem would be little abated over New York. And yet he would find more to approve, more to be hopeful about, in the modern world represented by New York than he found in the world to which he came. Second, how would he be received? Doubtless he would be a hated disturbance to the majority, as his living presence is now where it is felt in its reality. Doubtless he would be despised and persecuted as a fanatic and a disturber by the high and mighty and the hypocrites as by the rabble and the profligates. Doubtless neither the common morality in living nor the business morality would welcome the test of his justice and purity. But he would find more who are living in his spirit, more who would follow him gladly, than he found at his coming in Judea. He would find more charity and brotherly kindness, a higher standard of life, than he encountered in the society in which he began his mission than existed in the Rome that crucified St. Peter, or in the middle ages that built the magnificent temples in his name.

It has been assumed that the usual propounders of these questions have a sincere concern over the worldliness of modern life. But I have a suspicion that most of them would be the last to welcome what they call primitive Christianity.—Harper's Monthly.

HOW MANY BIBLE PROMISES.

Often I have heard this statement: "There are thirty thousand promises in the Bible." Those who make this statement of course believe it to be correct, but perhaps a fact or two will help them to see that it can hardly be true. The whole Bible contains 31,173 verses. I suppose that this is the reason for saying that there are thirty thousand promises in the Bible, as the verses in the Bible number, in round figures, about thirty thousand. But we should remember that a large part of the Bible consists of history, denunciation against sin, long chapters of hard names, so that it will be quite difficult to get thirty thousand promises out of only 31,173 verses. It is true that all verses in the sacred scriptures point to Christ, so that there is no portion of them but what is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, correction, and for instruction in righteousness; but to make the sweeping statement publicly that there are thirty thousand promises in the Bible is not quite what careful students of God's book will want to do. There are "exceeding great and precious promises" for every child of God, and enough of them to save us from our sins, keep us from falling, and present us faultless before the throne of our king in the eternal home; but nothing is gained to the cause of truth by making careless, exaggerated statements, which, when submitted to the slightest investigation, prove to be untrue.—Gleams of the Morning.

STOP SCOWLING!

The habit of scowling soon spoils the face. Before you know it your face will resemble a small railroad map. There is a grand trunk-line now from your cow-lick to the bridge of your nose, intersected by parallel lines running east and west, with curves arching your eyebrows; and oh, how much older you look for it. We frown when the light is too strong and when it is too weak. We tie our brows into a knot when we are thinking, and knit them even more tightly when we cannot think. There is no denying there are plenty of things to scowl about. The baby in the cradle frowns when some things fail to suit. "Constitutional scowl," we say. The little toddler who likes sugar on his bread and butter tells his troubles in the same way when you leave the sugar off. "Cross," we say about the children, and "worried to death," about the grown folks, and as for ourselves, we can't help it. But we must. Its reflex influence makes others unhappy. Scowling is a kind of silent scolding. It shows that our souls need sweetening. For pity's sake, let us take a sad-iron, or a glad-iron, or a smoothing-tool of some sort, and straighten these creases out of our faces before they become indelibly engraved upon our visage.

THE SPIRIT OF INQUIRY.

The wise men and Herod both ask about the child Jesus, and ask it nearly in identical terms. What is the difference? It lies in the motive. The wise men inquire, that they may bring their gold. Herod inquires, that he may kill. There is a reverent and there is an irreverent spirit of inquiry. There is a criticism that comes from love and a criticism that comes from lovelessness. There are two reasons why I may wish to study a difficulty; I may want to clear it away or I may want to deepen it. The wise men were one; Herod was the other. It is not the subject of inquiry that makes it either good or bad; it is the spirit in which it is done. Why do you pore over a blot on the manuscript? Is it because you want to take it out or is it because you hope it will spoil the writing? There are things which "the angels desire to look into;" there may be students among the angels in all worlds. But if I desire to look into a thing that I may find it dark, if I wish to investigate on the chance that I may discover a flaw, I belong not to the camp of angels, but to the camp of Herod.

DECIDE AT ONCE.

The call to meet some need comes in an hour when we think not. The door of opportunity opens suddenly, unexpectedly; and unless one is ready on the instant to pass through, the door closes again. The great thing which a young man needs in a crisis of temptation is to declare for the right quickly. Leave no time for temptation to accumulate. It often requires a great deal of character to do that; not only a religious principle, but a strong character back of that.—Austin Phelps.

AN OPEN LETTER

From Miss Sachner, of Columbus, O., to Ailing Women.

To all women who are ill:—It affords me great pleasure to tell you of the benefit I have derived from taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I can hardly find words to express my gratitude for the boon given to suffering women in that excellent remedy. Before taking the Compound I was thin, fallow, and nervous. I was troubled with leucorrhœa, and my menstrual periods were very irregular. I tried three physicians and gradually grew worse. About a year ago I was advised by a friend to try Mrs. Pinkham's Sanative Wash and Vegetable Compound, which I did. After using three bottles of the Vegetable Compound and one package of Sanative Wash, I am now enjoying better health than I ever did, and attribute the same to your wonderful remedies. I cannot find words to express what a Godsend they have been to me.



Whenever I begin to feel nervous and ill, I know I have a never-failing physician at hand. It would afford me pleasure to know that my words had directed some suffering sister to health and strength through those most excellent remedies.—Miss MAY SACHNER, 348½ E. Rich St., Columbus, O.

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Millions of America's men day after day feed their nerves with tobacco, until the nerves become nicotinized and the blood tobacco-lained, then the NERVES creep and crave for more tobacco. That's called a habit. It's a disease, and in all this world there is but one guaranteed cure,

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HIS CHRISTMAS SORROW.

What are by-gone days to me,
As I think of the ending year,
With its past, I never again shall see—
It's the buy-come days I fear.

THE INOCULATION CURE.

First they pumped him full of virus from some mediocre cow,
Lest the smallpox might assail him, and leave pit-marks on his brow;
Then one day a bulldog bit him—he was gunning down at Quogue—
And they filled his veins in Paris with an extract of mad dog;
Then he caught tuberculosis, so they took him to Berlin,
And injected half a gallon of bacilli into him;
Well, his friends were all delighted at the quickness of the cure,
Till he caught the typhoid fever, and a speedy death was sure;
Then the doctors with some sewage did inoculate a hen,
And injected half its gastric juice into his abdomen;
But soon as he recovered, as of course he had to do,
There came along a rattlesnake and bit his thumb in two;
Once again his veins were opened to receive about a gill
Of some serpentine solution with the venom in it still;
To prepare him for a voyage in an Asiatic sea,
New blood was pumped into him from a leprous old Chinese;
Soon his appetite had vanished, and he could not eat at all,
So the virus of dyspepsia was injected in the fall;
But his blood was so diluted by the remedies he'd taken,
One day he laid him down and died, and never did awaken;
With the Brown-Sequard elixir, though, they tried resuscitation,
He never showed a symptom of reviving animation;
Yet his doctor still could save him (he persistently maintains),
If he only could inject a little life into his veins.

—Puck.

HE KNEW HOW.

Oh, I guess we have our experiences," laughed the fire insurance agent. "We are just like others who have to deal with all kinds of people.

"Take the smart Ales, for instance. They give us a whirl once in awhile, but we generally manage to get as good as a draw with them. It was only last fall that one of them came in and wanted me to insure his coal pile. Of course I caught on at once, but I made out his policy and took his money. In the spring he came around with a broad grin on his face and told me that the coal had been burned—in the furnace, of course. I solemnly informed him that we must decline to settle the loss. He said he would sue. I told him to blaze away and I would have him arrested as an incendiary. That straightened his face out, and it cost him a tidy little supper for a dozen of us just to insure our silence.

"One shrewd old chap had grown rich out of our company, and when he had built an elegant new store and stocked it with goods he came to us again for insurance. I refused him, but he was persistent, and I finally assented on condition that he hang a gross of hand-grenades in the place. After I had seen them properly distributed, I sent an old chum of his up to get the real lay of the land, for I was still suspicious. This is 'what the cronies said to each other:

"What is them things, Ike?"

"Hand-grenades."

"What's hand-grenades?"

"I don't know what was in 'em at first, but they're full of kerosene oil now."

"We cancelled the policy."—Detroit Free Press.

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A son of a dignified Hartford man, although not old in years, has a good bit of age in his brains. The family observe the custom of silent blessing at the table, and at dinner recently the six-year-old spoke up: "Why don't you say it aloud, pa?"

"You can say it aloud if you choose, my son," replied the father, and howing his head solemnly, the little fellow originated this unique grace:

"God have mercy on these victuals."

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LEE, Illinois, October, 1, 1895.
The old man I fitted 2 years ago wore your truss about 90 days and said he was cured. Saw him last week and although he was 63 years old and a hard worker, he is as sound as when a boy.

Yours truly, M. C. MUSS, M. D.
STANARDSVILLE, Va., Sept. 5, 1895.

I have had splendid result from your truss in quite a number of cases of grown people.

DERRICK CITY, Pa., June 3, 1895.
I received my truss the 27th and since I have had it I have taken more comfort with it than any I ever have had. The last day I got it I put it on and mowed grass all day and I never noticed that I had it on me.

ALEX. BROWN
TENNIS, N. C., July 21, 1895.

About 3 years ago I bought one of your trusses. I wore it about 6 months and it has made a final cure. Was badly ruptured, I would have written to you about this before but wanted to see if my cure was permanent.

O. G. HALLAMAN.
\$1.000 forfeited to you if every testimonial used by us is not genuine. Address
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The law of hospitality has received a new interpretation, if the newspaper stories in New York are to be credited. A lady in this city has revised her visiting list. Neither brains nor family are to count. She will entertain only those persons who can spend as much money in entertaining her as she spends in entertaining them. And when ye make a feast, go out into the mansions and invite those who can give terrapin for terrapin, champagne for champagne, quail for quail; find out the wages paid the chef, and count the servants, and investigate the florists' bills; and when the balance is even, compel them to come in. Fortunately, this does not represent society.

BECAME TOO PRACTICAL.

A Yorkshire socialist, explaining to a friend the principles of socialism, remarked that all possessions should be shared equally:

"If you had two horses," said the friend, "would you give me one?"

"Of course," replied the socialist.

"And if you had two cows would you do the same?"

"Of course I should."

"Well, supposing now," said the friend, slowly, "you had two pigs, would you give me one of them?"

"Eh! tha's gettin' over near home," said the other, slyly; "tha knows I've got two pigs."

SHE GOT THE AUTOGRAPH.

William Dean Howells has adopted the rule that all applicants for his autograph must first furnish satisfactory proof that they have read his books. A Chicago girl recently wrote to the great novelist for his autograph. By return mail came a single typewritten line: "Have you bought my last book?" To which the young woman replied, "I sincerely hope so."

The autograph came promptly.

COALS TO NEWCASTLE.

Benevolent individual—"Beg pardon, sir; but I am around collecting reading matter for the hospitals."

Busy personage—"Oh! they've got plenty of reading matter—loads of it. It isn't a month since I sent them a Sunday paper."

—New York Weekly.

INTO THE FIRE.

"I congratulate you, my dear sir, on the marriage of your daughter. I see you are gradually getting all the girls off your hands."

"Off my hands—yes! But the worst of it is I have to keep their husbands on their feet."

—Melbourne Weekly Times.

PUTTING IT TO USE.

"I suppose classical music is all right in its place," said Maud.

"I'm sure it is," replied Mamie; "I don't care to listen to it myself, but sometimes you have to play it in order to get a man to go home."—Washington Star.

TRUSTWORTHY.

"Well, did he pay you anything?" asked the business manager.

"Yes," replied the female collector, "he paid me a compliment. He said he wouldn't be afraid to trust me with the money if he had any."

WORTHY.

"My daughter is very spiritual; she kept up her church work through the hot weather."

"What kind of church work?"

"She went to the sea-shore and came home engaged to a clergyman."—Chicago Record.

HIS SPECIALTY.

"I don't know just how I would be on the rush line," said the mule, "hnt there is one thing in the game I could do to perfection, the drop kick. Every time I kick a man he drops."—Indianapolis Journal.

STAR GRINDING MILL.

The Star Grinding Mill made by The Star Mfg. Co., of New Lexington, Ohio, is constructed of the best material in every part, and has a capacity of from 15 to 35 bushels per hour. It grinds all kinds of grain perfectly and possesses many merits exclusively its own. Send to the manufacturers for prices before buying.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

"Did the judge let that man go on the plea of his ignorance of the law?"

"No; he let him go on the plea of his ignorance of lawyers."—Detroit Free Press.

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"These names are ample guarantee for the intelligent and vigorous, yet conservative, conduct of this gigantic enterprise."—N. Y. Tribune.
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Our Miscellany.

PARSON JOHNSON—"So dis little chile am a gal. Do de udder one belong to de contrary sex?"

Mrs. Jackson—"Yais, pahson; dots agal, too."

THE Emperor of China, who was carefully educated by an American missionary, can speak and read the English language fluently. He has positive horror of European doctors, and his diet is regulated by a board of native medicine men.

A STORY is told of the late Baron Hirsch that conveys a valuable lesson. After writing a message announcing the gift of a fortune to a school the great millionaire went over the telegram carefully a second time, condensing it so as to save a franc.

ONE of the Buddhist religious services is a mass in which the officiating priest chants a prayer of which the following is a part:

"I vow not to slay any living creature.
I vow not to take my neighbor's goods.
I vow not to give myself up to sensual pleasures.
I vow not to drink any intoxicants."

GREAT explorer's friend (as the latter is about to start)—"Well, professor, you've arranged for your lectures and book when you come back, haven't you?"

Great explorer—"Yes; also my testimonials are written for the canned goods, the clothing, the boats and the cooking-utensils. All I have to do now is to get lost, and my fortune is made."—Boston Journal.

A WRITER in the "Scottish Geographical Magazine" says that after the Japanese were forced to open their ports to European commerce a secret council of the nobility was convoked at which it was resolved to "fight the Europeans commercially." The writer goes on to say that the council "decided to send the ablest men in Japan to Europe and America to study everything, and, on their return, to teach their fellow-countrymen to turn out every commercial product that they are able to supply." He adds that it is Japan's greatest ambition to compete in foreign markets with the goods produced in foreign countries.

On page 7 you will find the adv. of Mr. C. B. Green, Nurseryman and Small Fruit Grower, Sedalia, Mo. He is one of the leading practical growers and his plants have always won high praise as big crop producers. There's lots of money in small fruits. Write Mr. Green for booklet entitled "Large Crops of Small Fruits and how they are grown," and mention this paper.

PLAIN SPEECH.

Let us speak plain, there is more force in names than most men dream of; and a lie may keep its throne a whole age longer if it skulk behind the shield of a fair-seeming name. For men in earnest have no time to waste in patching fig-leaves for the naked truth.
—James Russell Lowell.

A WELCOME.

Niece—"Aunt, this is our new minister, who has called to see you."
The old lady—"Indeed, I'm glad to see you, sir; and I hope you will call as often as the last incumbent did."—Puck.

JUST BEFORE THE EXPLOSION.

"Bridget, did you bring up that jar of blackberries I asked you to bring?"
"I did, mum."
"You are sure they are blackberries, are you?"
"Yis, mum, but I had to open a dozen jars before I found 'em."

IN THE ARTIC CIRCLE.

Walrus Bill—"Klondike Ike's wife didn't know him when he got home from our little swarray this morning."
Sealskin Sam—"How could you expect her to, after he had been out all night and grown a beard six months old?"—Indianapolis Journal.

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

John Bauscher, Jr., Freeport, Ill. The 1898 poultry guide and catalogue of the Sunflower poultry and seed farm.

Iowa Seed Co., Des Moines, Iowa. Twenty-eighth annual catalogue of farm, garden and flower seeds. Specialty, Iowa Silver Mine corn.


The Samuel Wilson Co., Mechanicsville, Pa. Seed, plant, tree and live-stock annual.

Edw. W. Cone, Menomonie, Wis. Cone's Plant Book, illustrating and describing choice strawberries. "The strawberry is my hobby," says Cone.

James Forsyth, Owego, Tioga Co., N. Y. Illustrated pamphlet of Riverside farm Guernsey cattle.

DARK CIRCLES AROUND THE EYES.

I send FREE a simple cure for this trouble so annoying to women. Whether from ill-health, over-work or any weakness it can be cured. Address Mrs. L. B. Hudnut, South Bend, Ind.



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[Trade Mark]

CURES RHEUMATISM
AND MANY OTHER DISEASES.

If You or Friends Are Suffering All Can Be Cured.
The following letter is a sample of many received.

JOHNSTOWN, N. Y., January 3, 1898.
SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., Chicago. Gentlemen:—I have been intending to write you in regard to my cure by your wonderful medicine "5 DROPS." In July, 1888, I was taken sick with what is called complication of diseases, being acute inflammation of all the organs of the body. I was very sick for about three months, having but one chance in a hundred of recovery, the disease settling in my kidneys and bladder; but the good Lord allowed me to live. I had also indigestion, constipation, nervous dyspepsia, heart failure, abscesses twice a week on the prostate gland, hemorrhage of the bowels once a week, enlarged spleen, muscular rheumatism in the palms of my hands extending to my shoulders, catarrh and chills and shakes, which no specialist in the state could tell me what they were or the cause. I would freeze to ice for fully five minutes, then the shakes would begin and I would shake from one half hour to an hour and a half, and when they stopped I had no strength left; the after effects were more like a fit. I would sleep very heavily for three hours or more, all under the most intense pain. All the specialists in the state declared me incurable. The X-Ray was put on by one of the city's most eminent physicians, but he told me I was incurable, that I must use plenty of morphine or suffer. Soon after I saw the ad in a western paper of "5 DROPS," the recipe from the celebrated physician, Dr. Lloyd, whom I knew by reputation. I wrote and explained my case to the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co., and received an answer that I could be cured, and sent me a small trial bottle to begin on. Just before I received it I had one of those terrible shakes which almost killed me. For nine years I had a kidney backache, a hot stinging pain that never left me for a moment. I tried everything I could hear of, but could get no relief until I began the "5 DROPS." The first dose I took the 5th of May, 1897, at noon, and in less than an hour the backache left me and has not returned. I used it steadily for three weeks and kept getting better; at the end of three weeks the pain in my side stopped; at the end of four weeks the rheumatism was no more, and in six weeks all my pain left me. My chills and shakes are gone; my heart failure and dyspepsia went the first week, and I feel strong and well, and I thank my God daily for having put me in the way of this great medicine. It has cured many in this vicinity and is still curing afflicted ones who take it steadily and want to be cured.
BURNS E. WHITE.

"5 DROPS" cures Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Dyspepsia, Backache, Asthma, Hay Fever, Catarrh, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Nervous and Neuralgic Headaches, Earache, Toothache, Heart Weakness, Croup, Swelling, La Grippe, Malaria, Creeping Numbness.

FOR 30 DAYS LONGER to enable sufferers to give "5 DROPS" at least a trial, we will send a sample bottle, prepaid by mail, for 25 cents. A sample bottle will convince you. Also, large bottles (300 doses) \$1.00, 3 bottles for \$2.50. Not sold by druggists, only by us and our agents. Agents wanted in new territory. Write us to-day.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 167-169 Dearborn St., CHICAGO, ILL.

Rolled Gold Rings FREE

Choice Given Free for a Club of Three Yearly Subscribers.

We offer the biggest bargain of our lives in fine rings. They would be cheap at twice the price we ask for them. They are made of two sheets of pure 18k solid gold rolled onto a thin band of hard metal for stiffening. The gold will not wear through for many years. In looks and wear no one can tell them from the gold rings selling in stores for \$2 and upward. Every ring is guaranteed to give complete satisfaction or money refunded.



No. 503.



No. 500.



No. 505.



No. 501.



No. 504.



No. 502.

No. 502 is always in style, and suitable for all occasions. Made in sizes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
No. 503 has a genuine tiger's-eye setting, which is much worn by men and boys as well as ladies. Made in sizes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
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To get the size of ring you want, take a narrow strip of stiff paper that just meets around the finger you want to fit; lay this strip on the gage shown here, one end at the left; the other end will show the number that is wanted.

We will send Farm and Fireside one year and any ONE of the Gold Rings for the SPECIAL price of 60 Cents. (Regular price, \$1.00.)
Any one of the rings given free for a club of three yearly subscribers.
Farm and Fireside one year and the silver ring for 40 cents. The silver ring given free for a club of two yearly subscribers.

Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

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Quickly cured. Package sent Remedy known postpaid by mail 10 cents. Address ANTHONY REMEDY CO., Dept. A, Hempstead, N. Y.

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Crows in, fills space, polishes bright. Sample 10c. 1 doz. 60c. postpaid. 3 doz. \$1.12 doz. \$3.60, exp. Agents make big pay. All Cat's Novelties, Tricks, Wigs & Plays free. C. MARSHALL, Lockport, N. Y.

LADIES! A friend in need is a friend indeed. If you want a regulator that never fails, address THE WOMAN'S MED. HOME, Buffalo, N. Y.

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We will mail on application Free and Full Information how to grow hair upon a Baldhead, stop Falling Hair and remove Scalp Diseases. As Dandruff, Eczema, Tetter and Falling Hair lead to Baldness, our FREE INFORMATION is indeed a most desirable gift to any person so afflicted. Write at once, and we will send it to you prepaid, FREE.

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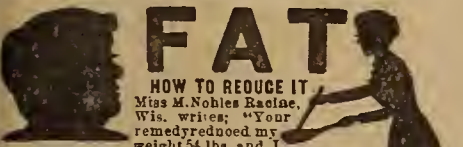
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Suddenly and ruck the nerves
Takes BACO-CURO, the only
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To each man's life there comes a time supreme—

One day, one night, one morning, or one noon,

One freighted hour, one moment opportune,
One rift through which sublime fulfillments gleam,

One space when fate goes tiding with the stream,

One once, in balance 'twixt too late, too soon,
And ready for the passing instant's boon
To tip in favor the uncertain beam.

Ah, happy he, who, knowing how to wait,
Knows also how to watch and work and stand

On life's broad deck alert, and at the prow
To seize the passing moment, big with fate,
From opportunity's extended hand,

When the great clock of destiny strikes
"now!"

—Mary A. Townsend.

FAMILY LINEN.

Sometimes young housekeepers are puzzled as to the amount of linen required in a moderate-sized family. Three pairs of sheets to a bed are quite sufficient when the linen is changed in the fashion common in most households—by removing the under sheet to the laundry, while the upper one takes its place and a clean one is added to replace the latter. If the beds are of varying sizes, sheets to fit each one should occupy their distinctive places in the linen-closet. They should be long enough and wide enough to tuck in easily. Use the sheets in turn, thus giving to them all an equal amount of wear and tear. Four pairs of pillow-cases and four bolster-cases are the number allotted to each bed. Old sheets should never be cut over for the servants' or children's beds, where they are pretty certain to receive hard usage, but ought to be kept for the purpose of emergency, or else cut in half, sewing the selvege edges together and thus taking a new lease of life and service.

Old table-cloth should not be thrown into the rag-bag, but cut over so as to make sideboard-cloths. Napkins that are worn will do for corn or hot bread. In buying table-linen double damask is the most economical in the end. A dozen ordinary cloths, with two or three extra-size ones for diuner parties, are enough to stock a linen-closet. Two dozen dinner-napkins and two dozen breakfast ones are quite sufficient. Always put the clean things at the bottom of the piles, being sure that they are mended before hidden from sight. Use in rotation, and keep the gaps in the supply well filled up, and your linen-closet is certain to prove a continued source of pride and pleasure.

Many years ago it was observed that persons employed about the purifying boxes of the Gas Works were remarkably free from pulmonary affections. Out of this grew the custom of taking children suffering from Whooping-Cough, Catarrh, Croup, Bronchitis and similar troubles to Gas Works and exposing them to the beneficial influence of the vapors. It was left to an enterprising Chemist, however, to establish this curative measure so that it could be utilized in the household. Careful analysis revealed that this active medicinal constituent of the contents of the purifying boxes was the substance so widely and favorably known as Vapo-Cresolene.

When vaporized in the Vapo-Cresolene vaporizer, Cresolene has been found distinctly curative in a large variety of throat diseases, including even Diphtheria; but it is in Whooping-Cough and Catarrhal Croup that the most brilliant results have been achieved.

The Vapo-Cresolene Co., 68 Wall Street, New York, will cheerfully send information regarding this article and how to use it.

CREAMED SWEETBREADS.

The sweetbread makes a most delicate dish, and can be served in many ways. It must be thoroughly cleaned in cold water, and then boiled in salted water for twenty minutes. Plunge it into ice-water, to bleach it, and when cold break it into bits, removing all fat and gristle. Use one half the rule for cream sauce, seasoned with a speck of mace, dry mustard and one slice of onion. Heat the sweetbread in this sauce. Serve on pointed pieces of toast; garnish with parsley, or serve in pate-cases, which can be bought at a baker's for three cents apiece.—Good Housekeeping.

I have used Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant in my family for Croup, and find nothing to equal it. E. T. DAVENPORT, Valley Head, Alabama, Oct. 18, 1895.

Regulate your bowels with Jayne's Sanative Pills.



\$2,000 PRIZE CONTEST

We have made arrangements with the publishers of the Atlanta Constitution whereby we give our readers the opportunity to take part in their great Missing Word Contest

FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

The Prize is given for supplying the one word missing in the following sentence :

"At first it was considered by the ' _____ ' as a good omen."

The sentence is taken from a well-known publication. The word is a familiar one and may readily suggest itself.

The Weekly Constitution is one of the greatest weekly newspapers in all America. They have conducted a number of very interesting contests, using the great educational feature of supplying a word dropped from a sentence selected from some standard book. These contests have been very popular, instructive and interesting, and to the winners very profitable. Their last one closes February 28th, so those who take part should not delay sending their guess.

The Plan of determining the size of the prize for the contest is quite novel and has proved quite satisfactory. The publishers of the Constitution set aside ten per cent of the amount it receives for subscriptions from parties entering the Missing Word Contest into a fund for distribution among those who name correctly the missing word. If only one contestant gets the right word, he or she will be given the entire fund. If more than one supplies the missing word, the same will be proportionately divided among the successful guessers.

In one of these contests there was only one successful guesser, who received more than \$1,000 in cash; and in addition to this, in one year \$5,000 in cash has been distributed among successful guessers.

The month of February is one of the best for subscriptions in the year. The publishers of the Constitution are expecting the February prize to amount to nearly \$3,000, and it can't hardly be less than \$2,000. They absolutely guarantee the prize to be \$500, so in any case it is a great prize and worth trying for.

The sole object of the contest is to create interest among its subscribers. The offer is, of course, a business proposition to be fairly carried out, but it is for advertising purposes, to attract new subscriptions and secure renewals.

There is no deception or catch about this contest, no trap to catch the credulous; it means plainly and fairly just what it says, for the Constitution could not afford to be a party to any scheme that had in view the betrayal of the full and generous confidence of its numerous patrons.

We are positive the contest will be conducted honestly and the prize awarded fairly. Every one has an equal chance to get all the prize or his share of it.

THE CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR SENDING A GUESS

at the missing word is that each and every guess must be accompanied by a year's subscription to the Weekly Constitution; the guess must be sent in the identical envelop that brings the money that pays for the subscription; forgetting it, leaving it out by accident or otherwise, or not knowing of the guess at the time you subscribed, or any other reason, will not entitle one to send a guess afterward. The guess must come with the subscription or not at all.

HOW TO SEND A GUESS

You need not write out the sentence in full. Take a separate piece of paper about the size of a postal-card, and write the word you guess, then sign your name, post-office, county and state. We here give a sample guess, but "running" is not the word.

"RUNNING"

(This is not the missing word)

John Smith

Jonesville

Brown County

Arkansas

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THE WEEKLY CONSTITUTION IS ONE OF THE GREATEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS IN THE WORLD. It is a TWELVE-PAGE, SEVEN-COLUMNS-TO-THE-PAGE NEWSPAPER, containing EIGHTY-FOUR COLUMNS every week. Its news reports cover the world, and its correspondents and agents are to be found in almost every county in every state.

The regular price of the Weekly Constitution is \$1.00 a year, but in order to advertise and introduce their paper to our readers they have made us a special low clubbing rate, enabling us to make the following very liberal offer:

We will send the Weekly Constitution one year, Farm and Fireside one year, and any ONE of the following premiums for \$1; that is, the two papers and one premium for \$1.

Samantha Among the Brethren.
Samantha at Saratoga.
The Standard Cook Book.
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Pictures of All Countries.
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When the above offer is accepted, send the order to Farm and Fireside along with the guess. The guess and the yearly subscription to the Weekly Constitution will be duly forwarded. Before ordering read carefully all the above rules and descriptions.

Postage paid by us. Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

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Keep the ground stirred with the Success Anti-Clog Weeder and Cultivator, and your grain will grow faster and yield from 10 to 20 bushels per acre more. With this greatest of all cultivators oats or wheat may be cultivated as easily as corn.

The only Weeder made that has *flat*, spring-steel teeth. Warranted not to break or to clog with weeds. If any teeth break the first year, they will be replaced free. Light, strong, *angle*-steel frame, adjustable shafts and handles. Earns its cost the first season. **Saved five times its cost** in a season on one farm. A boy with a horse and a Success Weeder can weed and cultivate 20 acres in a day; both weeding and cultivating will be done better than with any other machine or by any other method. Every farmer in the land needs and should have

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"Please ship me another Success Anti-clog Weeder. I loaned mine to a neighbor to put in oats with and it did the work perfectly."

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"Have tried the Success Anti-clog Weeder on oats and it works fine!"

JACOB F. FORNEY, Calcium, Pa.

"Enclosed find Money Order for four more Weeders. Please ship by first freight, as the parties are in a hurry for them. Those I have already sold are giving excellent satisfaction. One man says he would not exchange his for twenty-five men."

CHAS. H. HARTUNG, Burket, Ind.

"Please send two more Weeders. Have been too busy with crops to talk Weeders, but since we began to use ours, there is no need for talk; the Weeder speaks for itself. Please rush them, the parties are waiting for them."

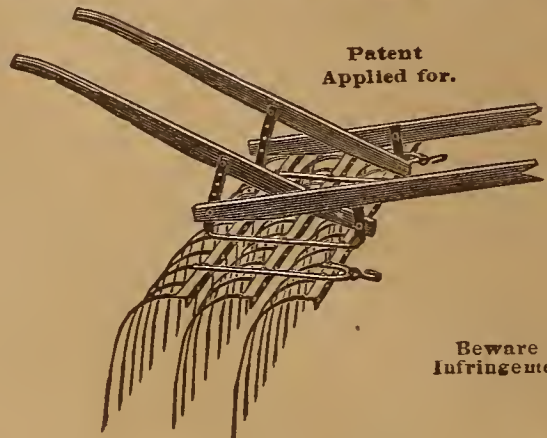
T. HOLTON ORCUTT, London, Ohio.

Many farmers are making money selling the Success Anti-clog Weeder.

The first order from each town secures special price and agency.

Prices and full information mailed free. Be sure to give name of county when you write.

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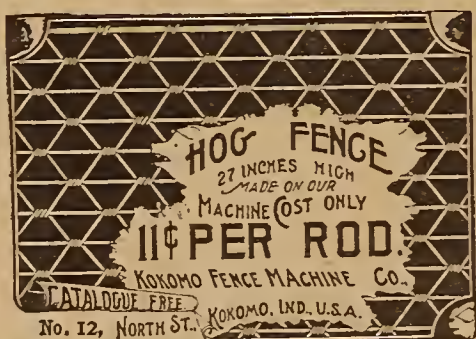
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STYLE TOP BUGGY FOR \$33.95. It is covered by a written binding one year guarantee, will last a

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Pure Raw Bone Meal.....	22 to 25	4 to 5	\$22 00 per ton
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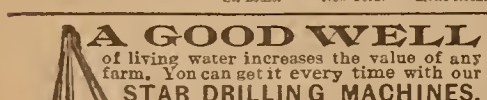
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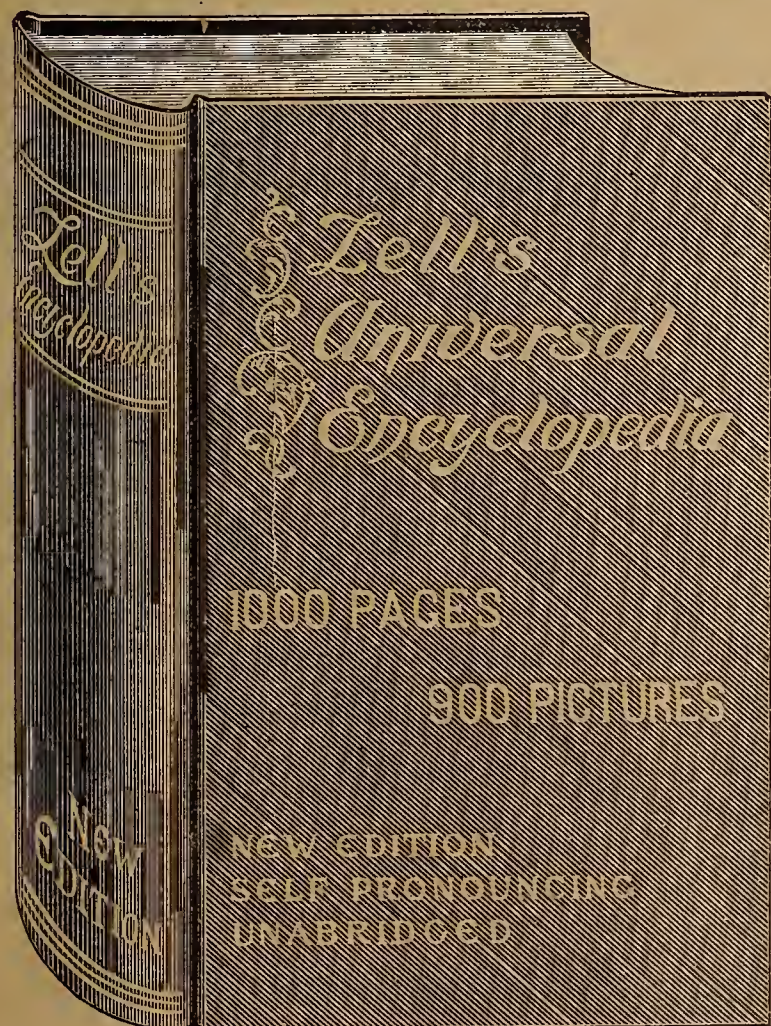
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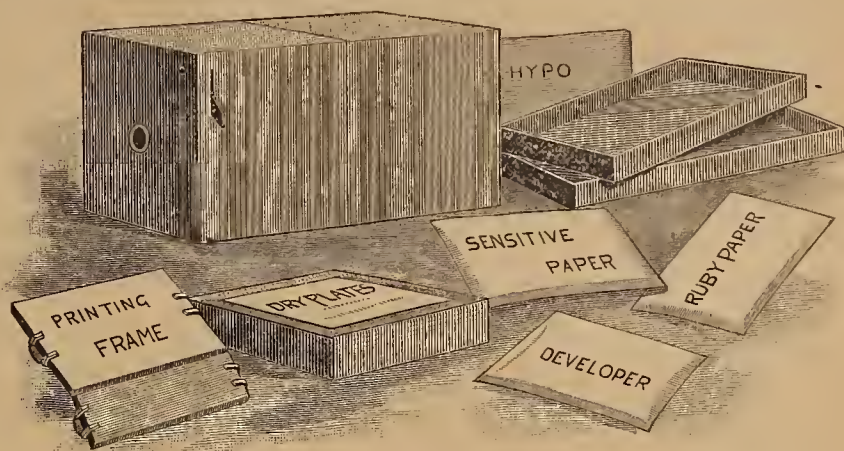
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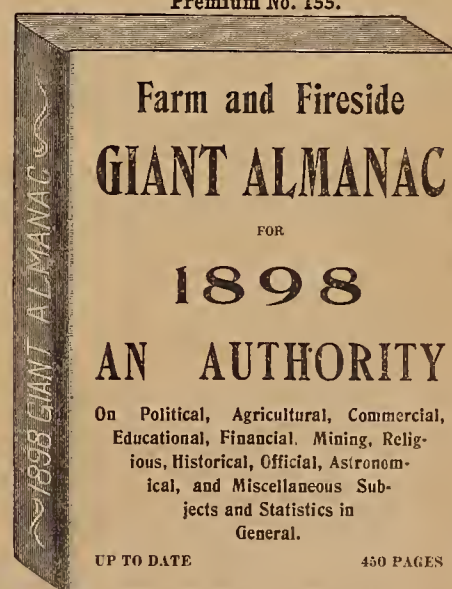
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ONE OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS FROM "SAMANTHA AMONG THE BRETHREN"



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VOL. XXI. NO. 10.

FEBRUARY 15, 1898.

TERMS {50 CENTS A YEAR.
24 NUMBERS.

A Great Authority

Mr. Chas. N. Kent, for many years editor of the "American Newspaper Directory," in a recent article in "Printers' Ink," says: "There are 116 semi-monthly publications in America printing more than 1,000 copies each issue. More than one-fourth are agricultural papers, only four of which issue as many as 40,000 copies. These four combined print 170,000 copies more each issue than the other 112 papers, while FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio, prints over fifty per cent more than seventy-nine of them combined."

Farm and Fireside's average circulation for the past three months is 85,325 more copies per issue than either of the other three above mentioned, according to the last edition of the "American Newspaper Directory," namely:

335,550 (copies per issue in two editions—Eastern and Western.
NEAREST COMPETITOR'S ACCORDED
CIRCULATION 250,225

IF YOU WANT TO REACH THE FARMER THE
SUREST AND CHEAPEST WAY, LET
US TALK ABOUT RATES.

WITH THE VANGUARD

ON the state of trade during the last week of January, "Bradstreet's" says:
"Favorable conditions in the trade situation continue to far outweigh those of an opposite character. Stormy weather throughout a large section of the country this week has checked the movement of merchandise into consumption, but a perceptible increase in the demand for seasonable goods is reported as already resulting. The last week of the month closes with increased activity in many lines, a number of price advances, heavily increased bank clearings, as compared with one year ago, at nearly all cities, another considerable drop in the number of failures reported, large exports of cereals, particularly wheat, corn and flour, and perceptible confidence in nearly all branches of trade as regards the outlook for spring business. Another favorable feature of the week is the slight but distinct improvement in the cotton-goods situation, in which speculative activity is awakening. Print-cloths are higher, and some makes of gray and medium weight cottons are more firmly held. Pig-iron is reflecting the effect of the present unprecedented production, and a further weakening in prices is recorded at eastern points. At the west, however, consumption of pig and of the finished products of iron and steel is reported increasing so as to hold prices firm. Large sales of bar steel and of rails are reported at Chicago and St. Louis, with mills refusing to take orders for delivery earlier than late summer. Boots and shoes hold the late advance, and manufacturers of heavy weights will not take orders for fall delivery at present prices. Wool is strong on large sales and firm prices abroad. Prices of most staple products are higher on the week; noticeable instances are those of wheat, which is past the dollar-mark again at many western markets; corn, oats and flour. Print-cloths, some other makes of cottons, and some classes of hog products are also higher. The active demand for the Klondike trade is reflected in canned goods, stocks of which are reported very low, with prices holding the late advance. Pig-iron, sugar, lead and coffee are slightly lower on the week.

"Business failures for the week are the smallest reported in the fourth week of January for five years past, numbering only 288, against 309 last week, 326 in the corresponding week of last year, 393 in 1896, 312 in 1895, and 340 in 1894. Of the failures reported, 251, or 87 per cent, were of concerns having \$5,000 capital or less, and 95 per cent in all were of concerns having less than \$20,000 capital.

"Bank clearings, while smaller than last week, aggregating only \$1,283,000,000, against \$1,417,000,000 last week, a drop of 9 per cent, are 34 per cent larger than last year, 44 per cent larger than 1896, and 67 per cent larger than 1894. A total is indicated for the month of January of not far from \$5,900,000,000, which is only slightly below December's immense total, and has been exceeded only three times in the history of the country."

THE success of annexation will sound the doom of the beet-sugar industry! is the cry of the sugar trust through mouthpieces claiming to represent sugar-beet growers. Nonsense. For more than twenty years Hawaiian sugar has been coming to this country duty free. It forms about one tenth of our sugar importation. Against the other nine tenths domestic sugar is now protected by heavy duties. Annexation cannot increase the competition of Hawaiian sugar with domestic beet-sugar. In fact, under annexation this competition can be greatly lessened by the abolishment of contract or coolie labor in the islands.

An anti-annexationist pamphlet says: "On what basis does the Secretary of Agriculture conclude that in case of annexation contract or coolie labor in the Hawaiian islands will vanish? It is a mere conclusion, the opposite of the natural one!" Secretary Wilson had the best of grounds for his conclusion. Article V. of the treaty of annexation now before the United States Senate, declares "There shall be no further immigration of Chinese into the Hawaiian islands, except on such conditions as are now or may hereafter be allowed by the laws of the United States, and no Chinese by reason of anything herein contained shall be allowed to enter the United States from the Hawaiian islands." Our treaty with Japan, which goes into effect next year, allows the United States to limit or prohibit the immigration of Japanese laborers. If the annexation treaty is ratified, Congress will have full power to abolish cheap yellow labor from the islands.

THE following is the opening paragraph of a letter which recently appeared in a Springfield daily:
"A Springfield paper that boasts of a large circulation, under date of January 15th, says of the Dingley law that 'the receipts in December exceed the expenditures' by a surplus of 'over one and one half millions.' The paper fails to mention the fact that the report quoted includes the repayment of the Union Pacific loan, which is no more due to the Dingley law than it is to the Ohio law that forbids the killing of rabbits. This repayment was probably interpolated purposely to bolster up the Dingley bill, and Republican papers say on that padded report that 'the Dingley bill is doing splendidly.' It seems to me, however, that papers that seek to instruct us who are confined to the FARM AND FIRESIDE should tell us the truth, whatever political journals may do."
The signature to the letter is "V. Racity." The writer was particularly unfortunate, either in his choice of a pen-name or in the combination of the words he put over it. For, when he wrote "the fact that the report quoted includes the repayment of the Union Pacific loan," he did not write the truth. The report questioned by him does not include the repayment of the Union Pacific loan. The amount named, \$27,700,000, was, approximately, the revenue yielded in December by the tariff law. In the same month the treasury received from the Pacific railroads over \$31,700,000. According to "V. Racity," this sum of \$31,700,000 was included in \$27,700,000—a plain

absurdity. If the report had been padded as he says it was, the December surplus would have been stated at about \$32,500,000, for the total receipts of the treasury in December were about \$59,500,000. His misinformation on this subject was probably obtained from some petty political paper that misleads its readers more often than it instructs them.

THE estimates of Statistician Hyde, of the Department of Agriculture, on the acreage and product of the cereals, hay and potatoes in the United States during 1897, are as follows:

	Acres.	Bushels.	Value.
Corn	80,095,101	1,902,967,933	\$501,072,952
Wheat	39,465,066	530,149,168	428,547,121
Oats	25,730,375	698,767,809	14,797,719
Rye	1,763,561	27,363,324	12,239,647
Barley	3,719,116	66,685,127	25,142,139
Buckwheat	717,836	14,997,451	6,319,188
Potatoes	2,534,577	164,015,964	89,643,059
Hay	42,426,770	(tons) 60,664,876	401,390,728

These estimates are higher on corn and lower on wheat than the trade estimates. Of this report the Cincinnati "Price Current" says: "The wheat estimate does not seem to be seriously faulty, but the yield of corn seems high, in view of so much evidence of disappointment in the yield. If the official estimate is not faulty in this respect there will most likely be quite a liberal surplus of this grain to go over to the next crop-year, which fact will continue to operate against extreme high prices, at least, for some time to come."

THE Missouri experiment station (Columbia) recently published an illustrated bulletin describing a series of interesting experiments on the draft of broad and narrow tired wagon-wheels. The tests were made with each kind on macadam, gravel and dirt roads, and on farm fields in all conditions. The experiments are summarized as follows:
The broad tires pulled materially lighter on the macadam streets and the gravel roads; also on dirt roads in all conditions, except when soft or sloppy on the surface, underlaid by hard road-bed, and when the mud was very deep and sticky. In both these conditions the narrow tires pulled considerably lighter. It should be borne in mind, however, that the roads are in these conditions for a comparatively short period of time, and this at seasons when their use has naturally been reduced to the minimum. The tests on meadows, pastures, stubble-land, corn-land and plowed ground in every condition, from dry, hard and firm to very wet and soft, show, without a single exception, a large saving in draft by the use of the broad tires.
The bulk of the hauling done by the farmer is on the farm, in hauling feed from the fields and hauling manure from the barns, etc. The actual tonnage hauled to market is insignificant in comparison with that hauled about on the farm, inasmuch as a large proportion of the products of the average farm is sent to market in the form of live-stock or its products.

It is clearly shown by these experiments that in many instances where the narrow tire is very injurious to the road or field, the broad tire proves positively beneficial when the same load is hauled. When it is considered, therefore, that the average draft of the broad tire is materially less than the narrow tire, and that the injury done to the roads and farms by the narrow tire can be almost wholly corrected by the use of the wide tires, there remains no longer any good reason for the use of the narrow-tired wagons.
These experiments further indicate that six inches is the best width of tire for the farm and road wagon, and that both axles should be the same length, so that the front and rear wheels shall run in the same track.

FARM AND FIRESIDE

PUBLISHED BY

MAST, CROWELL & KIRKPATRICK.

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Postage-stamps will be received in payment for subscriptions in sums less than one dollar, if for every 25 cents in stamps you add one-cent stamp extra, because we must sell postage-stamps at a loss.

The date on the "yellow label" shows the time to which each subscriber has paid. Thus: feb98, means that the subscription is paid up to February, 1898; mar98, to March, 1898, and so on.

When money is received, the date will be changed within four weeks, which will answer for a receipt.

When renewing your subscription, do not fail to say it is a **renewal**. If all our subscribers will do this, a great deal of trouble will be avoided. Also give your name and initials just as now on the yellow address label; don't change it to some other member of the family; if the paper is now coming in your wife's name, sign her name, just as it is on the label, to your letter of renewal. Always name your post-office.

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We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

Our Farm.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Artificial Hatching.

It is only for a very few years now that we have solved the question of artificial hatching with some degree of success. I believe that the majority of people will continue to meet with failure when attempting to run incubators, for it is surely a somewhat difficult and complicated task, and requires much close study and attention. By this I do not mean to assert that it be not possible for a novice to secure one or more entirely satisfactory hatches from the very start. Still, there are uncertainties connected with the task, and we some-

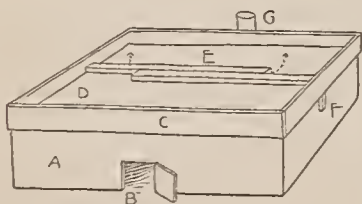


FIG. 1.

times find that there are "slips between cup and lip." I confess, however, that all other difficulties in this business can be more easily overcome than that of providing good eggs—fresh, fertile and of strong vitality—early in the hatching-season. In fact, I believe that more failures are traceable to faults in the eggs that are used for hatching than to the machine or the way it is handled. My advice in regard to artificial hatchers can be crowded into very few words. Select any of the best modern makes of incubators. I do not insist that you should buy this one or that one, and no other. But buy under a guarantee. Buy a machine of large size rather than one of the small things. The large ones are safer to handle, and usually give a larger percentage of successful hatches. Also it takes about as much time to look after a 100-egg machine as to tend a 500-egg machine. For myself I would use nothing short of the 200 or 300 egg size. With my 100-egg size I have to run three or four hatches every spring, and set a lot of hens beside, in order to give me what chicks I want. It makes the later hatches much

later than desirable. An ordinary cellar, such as people use for storing potatoes and other vegetables, is probably as good a place as can be found for placing an incubator. This has just about the right degree of moisture, so that no moisture need be provided inside of the machine. I think it is a mistake to place an incubator into a dry room so that the moisture-pans have to be kept filled with moist sand or water. I would prefer to have the machine stand in a place where, in case of possible accident, it could burn without setting the house afire. For this reason I believe that an underground separate root-cellar would be an ideal place for the incubator.



FIG. 2.

Home-made Brooders.

I might consent to get along without artificial means of hatching eggs. In fact, I have done that for many years, and in a pinch I think I can still depend on hens and turkeys setting them over and over on a new lot of eggs. But I would miss an artificial mother or brooder. I surely can bring the chicks and little turks and ducklings up by hand with much less trouble and loss than if I let the old hens take care of them. My hens are heavy (Langshans) and liable to crush the life out of a large percentage of the little things. Besides, they are bound to drag their broods all over, wet or dry, and thus kill many. I use a simple home-made brooder, set in the greenhouse, and in this I keep the newly hatched birds for about two weeks, or until old enough to be turned out on the greenhouse floor, and later into a large cold frame, part of which is covered with mats or shutters. The one great point is cleanliness. I use plenty of sand on the floor of brooder and cold frame. My brooder is made as follows:

Making the Brooder. Procure some light clear lumber, say $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, and make a box or frame (see A in figure 1) about 28 inches long, 22 inches wide and 6 inches deep, without bottom.

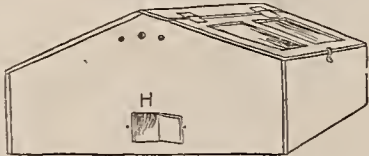


FIG. 3.

Nail a piece of zinc or sheet-iron (D) on it for a top. Put in a door (B) for inserting the lamp. Next make two troughs of zinc, about two inches wide and one inch deep (see E), to serve as conductors of hot air. These may be soldered on the sheet of zinc on top, as shown. In my brooder they are held down by means of a strip of asbestos paper pasted over them. Another little tube, or trough, is fastened on the outside of the box at each side, connecting with the troughs inside, and admitting air from outside, near the bottom of box, to the troughs where the lamp in the center heats it, and sends it along to the open end of the trough, as indicated by the dotted arrows. Three-inch strips (C) are nailed around the box at top, projecting $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, so that the top part of the brooder may nicely fit into it, and set on the edges of the zinc top. The lamp, Fig. 2, is an ordinary brooder lamp, and may be small (mine has only a 7-16 wick). Through the side opposite the door a piece of tin pipe bent at nearly right angles is inserted in such a way as to act as a chimney and to carry off the gases from the burning lamp.

The top part of brooder is made as shown in Fig. 3. It fits into the frame of the bottom box, and has a bottom of half-inch boards, placed so that there is a space of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches between it and the sheet of zinc covering the lower box. A good portion of the roof part should be of glass to admit light. A small door in front (H) allows the chicks to come out on a platform, which is to be supported by hooks and rests on edge of lower box.

A two-inch hole is bored into the bottom of top box immediately over the open end of each hot-air trough, and a tin cup, perforated near the top, is inserted into each hole so that the hot air can pass up from below and right over the chicks.

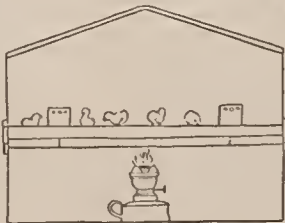


FIG. 4.

Cross-section, Fig. 4, will make this arrangement reasonably plain. My small lamp heats the upper part during the night just to the right temperature. The chicks will scatter evenly over the whole floor space without crowding into the corners or around the tin cups, as they will if they do not feel warm enough. Loss will surely result if such crowding is permitted by lack of warmth. In the morning I attach the platform shown in Fig. 5. This is surrounded by wire screen about 8 inches high, so that the little chicks cannot fall off. Of course, the larger this platform the better. Mine is only about a foot wide, but I have kept ninety chicks in a brooder of this size for two weeks without changing, and practically without loss. Of course, prompt attention must be given to the proper cleaning as well as feeding. The lamp is kept burning only during the night, as the day temperature in the greenhouse is usually sufficient, except when the

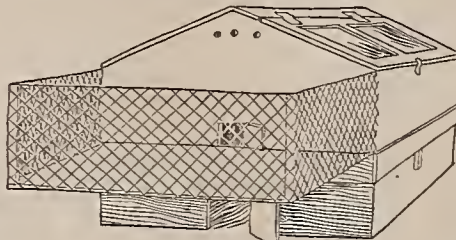


FIG. 5.

chicks are first hatched. The bottom of platform is kept covered with sand and fine gravel or finely broken shells, and plenty of green stuff, especially the chopped tops of onion seedlings, is given to the little birds very freely. On the whole, I find this brooder very satisfactory and a great success. I hope others may also find it is.

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Catalogues. The new crop of seed catalogues is coming in, and, as usual, some of them are largely devoted to extravagant praises of "novelties." In years past I used to invest quite extensively in "new" seeds and plants, fully expecting each spring to astonish the natives with something remarkable; but season after season passed along without anybody being astonished. No "new" vegetable or fruit that I ever tried anywhere near equaled the description given of it in the catalogue.

I still make it a practice to try one or two of what seem to be the most promising novelties each year, but I do not expect to scare the neighbors with them, as I formerly did. I have noticed that every "novelty" that proves to be a valuable acquisition remains in the catalogues, and in two or three years sells at the same prices as the older varieties, while those that prove to be no better than old sorts disappear and are heard of no more. Skilled market-gardeners rarely go chasing after "novelties" with high-sounding names. What they seek for is sound, live, well-bred seed of the varieties they know to be good.

When making out an order for seeds it is a good idea to add one or two of the "new" things, if you have the cash to spare, but don't neglect to give the old reliable sorts fertile soil and good treatment, and they will not disappoint you or lead you to wish for something better.

Early Orders. It is a good plan to get your orders for seeds, plants, trees, eggs for hatching, etc., in early. These early orders are almost certain to be filled early and with the best stock, while late orders are often delayed, filled with stock picked up here and there, or with substitutes said to be "just as good."

Any kind of an implement needed should be ordered at once. Don't wait until you are ready to use it, but get it on hand and see if it is in good condition and no part missing.

It takes some time to make out orders for seeds, plants, trees, implements, etc., and every farmer and gardener can spare more time to such matters now than next month, and the satisfaction of having it off your mind is worth considering.

Hand Cultivator. Draw up a plan of your garden before you plant a seed, and arrange it so that most of the work can be done with a hand cultivator. The hoe is a very useful tool in a garden, but for rapid work it is nowhere beside a good two-wheeled hand cultivator. I once

grew something over a half acre of onions, and did all the cultivating with a hoe, and I declared that no price would tempt me to undertake such a task again. But the following spring I procured a hand cultivator, took the teeth and hoes to a blacksmith, and had him beat and grind them into good condition for work, arranged the one wheel so that it could be set to one side, and then I planted about a quarter of an acre to onions. With that cultivator, clumsy and crude as it was, I kept the weeds out of the quarter-acre patch easier than I could have kept them out of a five-rod patch with a hoe alone.

If I'd had a cultivator as well made as one manufactured now, I am well satisfied that I could have grown three acres quite as easily as the quarter.

Let me give those who are thinking of purchasing a hand cultivator, or have one and have thrown it aside because it was too hard to run, a hint that will be worth something to them. Just keep in mind that a hand cultivator is neither a plow nor a spade; that it is not intended for plowing ground or spading it up, but solely for skimming the surface and breaking the crust formed after a shower, and for destroying weeds in the seed-leaf.

If a man undertakes to plow his garden with a hand cultivator, he will exhaust his strength, blister his hands, and wish he had never heard of the thing. If he skims the ground after every shower (soon as dry enough to work well), and destroys the weeds before they get half an inch high, he will not cease to praise the implement as long as he gardens.

Spray at the Right Time. A party residing in a southern county writes me that spraying apple-

trees for the codling-moth is a humbug. He has a family orchard of twelve varieties, and last season he borrowed a spraying outfit and as soon as the blossoms had all fallen he gave the trees a good spraying with Paris green, yet the apples on some of his trees were as wormy as any in the orchards of his neighbors who didn't spray.

At the last annual meeting of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, an expert on orchard-spraying said that the time to spray a tree was immediately after the blossoms fell from that tree, not after all of the blossoms had fallen from all of the trees in the orchard.

My correspondent says that all of his Maiden Blush apples were wormy, which shows plainly that he did not spray that early blooming variety soon enough. If one desires to make spraying effective, and worth the time and material, he must spray at the right time, while the calyx of the flower is still open and pointing upward. If the calyx is filled with the poison used in spraying while it is open and still turned upward the larva is almost sure to be killed when it undertakes to eat its way into the apple. The orchardist must remember that the calyx of the apple closes very soon after the petals fall, and then it is too late to spray. Many people lay the blame of failure on apparatus or material, when it should rest on themselves.

In buying Paris green for spraying always get the best. Some of it is so diluted with other material as to be next to worthless.

FRED GRUNDY.

THE SOY-BEAN.

The soy-bean thrives best in soils of medium texture well supplied with lime, potash and phosphoric acid. It may be grown about as far north as corn.

The early varieties are best for seed crops, and the medium or late varieties for hay, forage and silage. Seed may be planted at any time during spring and early summer; but preferably as soon as the ground becomes well warmed up. Drill one half to three fourths of a bushel to the acre; broadcast, three fourths to one bushel.

Little cultivation is needed when growing for forage; when for seed, keep weeds down until plants shade the soil. The soy-bean may be used for soiling, pasturage, hay and ensilage, or the beans may be harvested and fed as grain. The forage is very rich in fat and muscle-making materials. The seed can be fed to best advantage when ground into meal, and is almost unequaled as a concentrated food.

Cut for hay when the plants are in late bloom; for ensilage, just before the pods begin to ripen; for seed, after the pods become about half ripe.—From Farmers' Bulletin No. 58.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Notwithstanding the failure of most co-operative enterprises, there is one field in which co-operation of farmers may be a financial success. There are hundreds of purely mutual and local fire insurance associations that are saving money for their members. Stock companies have advanced rates in recent years to a point that makes insurance burdensome. The advance is due, in part, to the carelessness of agents who are more interested in commissions than safety of risks. Two thirds of country fires are supposed to be preventable. Carelessness on the part of some, and viciousness on the part of others, account for many fires. The loss falls upon stockholders of companies that must intrust their business to agents working on commissions, and the charge for insurance must be great enough to cover all such losses, pay big salaries and furnish dividends.

TOWNSHIP INSURANCE.—The careful and honest farmers of a township may evade the necessity of paying the losses of careless or vicious people by forming themselves into a local association to furnish their own insurance. In order to succeed, there are several things to be observed: 1. The territory to be covered by the association should be small. Only in this way can there be certainty that all members are desirable ones. In a comparatively small territory the character of each man, his financial condition and the safety of his buildings are known to the most of his neighbors. 2. There should be no commissions for solicitors, as commissions make an inducement to secure insurance for property that is not a safe risk. 3. There should be very little compensation for officers.

A SUCCESSFUL COMPANY.—I am acquainted with one such mutual company that has secured all the desirable risks within its territory. It has been in operation for many years, and the cost of insurance is less than one fifth the amount charged by regular companies. There is no need of agents or commissions, all farmers wanting the benefit of its low rate. The only difficulty is to keep some men out of its membership. This is done by the requirement that seven of the twelve directors sign the application of a proposed member. As the territory is small, the incendiary or careless person is an object of suspicion on the part of enough men to cut off his chances for insurance in this company. It is all wrong that an honest and careful man should pay for the insurance of the incendiary, and yet this is the case in old-line companies. The local and purely mutual association can reduce the cost of insurance most materially if its membership is only the best in the vicinity.

SUGAR-BEETS.—The interest in the question of establishing factories for making sugar from beets is increasing. I believe we now have seven such factories in this country, only one of which is in the East. The establishment of such a factory is a big undertaking. Two things must be known; namely, the ability of farmers to produce beets of the requisite purity, and their willingness to produce them in sufficient amount. When these conditions are met, capital is ready for investment. It takes about half a million dollars to build and equip a good factory and to run it a year. The providing of this capital and the making of the sugar are work for the capitalist—the less the average farmer has to do with such a company the better for him. If there is anything for the farmer in the sugar business, it is in the growing of the beets. He can become a producer of beets with some safety, but the manufacture of sugar is outside of his natural line of work.

EXPERIMENTS MUST BE MADE.—The preparatory work in establishing a sugar factory involves lots of work. The first step is to have many experimental plots of beets grown. The beets are grown in the various soils, the cost of culture and the yield an acre being obtained by the

farmers. The beets from the various soils are analyzed, the amount of sugar and of impurity being determined. Then there are data for guidance of farmers and capitalists. The farmers are enabled to determine whether they can afford to produce the beets at the usual price a ton paid by factories, and whether they are willing to engage in that kind of farming. The percentage of sugar in the beet and the percentage of purity are the chief factors in determining the question whether a factory would pay or not. The experimental plots on hundreds of farms are also needed to accustom the farmers to the culture of the crop, in order that they may not fail to secure good yields and supply the factory when it is built.

FEEDING BEETS.—An experimental plot should contain at least one acre, and as there can be no factory to use up the crop from these plots, the beets may be fed to stock with good results. Some farmers make it their rule to grow some beets for feeding. No money need be lost in experimenting, if the crop is thus used to advantage.

THE FACTORY.—In the event that the beets prove to be high in quality, the sugar manufacturer is ready to enter into contracts with the farmers. A fair-sized factory consumes about 400 tons of beets a day, and it should run 200 days in the year. This quantity of beets would require something near 8,000 acres of land for its production. When contracts are made for the



NATURAL SUGAR-BEET.

beets, the manufacturer is ready to build his factory.

THE SOIL FOR BEETS.—I have examined with some care the tables of yields and analyses of beets on experimental plots in one section of an eastern state where a factory is contemplated. Good returns have been obtained from various kinds of soils, but I believe the richest beets will be gotten from sandy rather than clayey land. A beet of moderate size usually is richer than a larger root. High manuring seems to give a beet poor in sugar. The beets are bought at a figure that varies in proportion to the sugar content, just as milk is valued at a creamery according to its content of butter-fat.

UNDUE EXCITEMENT.—The general furor concerning sugar-beets will subside in time, as it has in the past, but it seems probable that a number of factories will be added to the present list. Improved machinery is making the business profitable where the conditions, including bounties, favor, but the factory is too big a thing to be introduced into some of the communities for which they are being proposed.

DAVID.

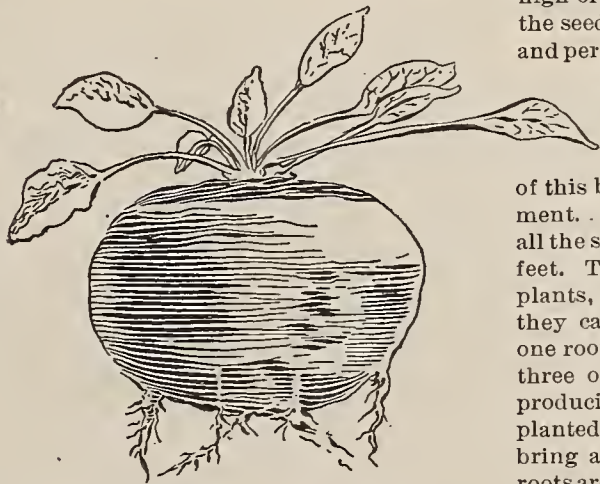
GROWING SUGAR-BEETS.

The era of sugar-beet growing has come, and numerous experiments made through co-operative efforts have demonstrated that beets can be grown with profit in all the western states, where the science of irrigation assists the farmers. In addition to the 40,000 tons grown for the sugar factory at Lehi, the Utah farmers made one hundred and fifty experiments in producing the saccharine tubers in 1897, with varying success or failure, depending upon soil, cultivation, irrigation and climatic conditions. My analyses of five samples, taken at different times in September, October and November, and made by chemists in the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, and the Utah Experimental Station, at Logan, showed sugar in the juice ranging from 16.2 to 20.43 per cent, and from

82.5 to 85 per cent purity, the highest figures being obtained from beets harvested the middle of October.

Seed was planted April 29th, in new land, from which the native sage-brush had but recently been cleared. The soil was plowed to the depth of eight inches, and thoroughly pulverized with a harrow before planting. Water was turned in the furrows on May 10th, to supply moisture for germinating the seed. This was repeated at intervals of ten days to two weeks throughout the season, or until October. The water never flowed longer than one hour in a place, and was not permitted to touch the tubers or tops on the surface. Beets were thinned June 10th by cutting out all but two or three in every foot of row, the distance between rows being about sixteen inches. Cultivation followed each irrigation, and the ground was kept clean of weeds. The average yield was fourteen tons to the acre, the beets averaging about one half pound each for those in original seed-rows.

Having made several successful experiments in transplanting onions, I decided to transplant some sugar-beets and watch developments. At thinning-time, when the beets were about the size and length of a finger, I spaded up several hundred and reset the same as cabbage-plants, by making holes with a dibble and allowing them to fill with water from the ditch, trickling along the furrows before firming the moist soil around the plants. To my surprise fully nine tenths of the transplanted beets lived and grew magnificently. The tubers ceased going downward and began to



SUGAR-BEET TRANSPLANTED.

spread out like turnips, and when fully grown resembled rutabagas. The leaves spread flat upon the ground instead of growing upward, as in the original seed-rows, thus maintaining perpetual moisture and killing out grass and small weeds. When harvested the transplanted tubers averaged one third heavier than the others, and contained about three per cent more saccharine matter and purity.

The various reports on sugar-beet growing prove that the business cannot be a success except by the adoption of the most modern methods of fertilizing and cultivation. Deep fall plowing puts the soil in better condition, and is advisable, except on sandy land. Close tillage and careful hand thinning and weeding are as much necessary in sugar-beet culture as in onion-growing. Shallow stirring of the soil between rows is beneficial after each rain or irrigation, and frequent hoeing aids in keeping down weeds and increasing fertility. Highly manured land will produce large, coarse specimens containing but little sugar and possessing poor feeding value. On ordinary soil, with careful tillage, beets testing from sixteen to twenty per cent and yielding an average of eighteen tons to the acre, can be grown. These beets will sell at four dollars a ton, or seventy-two dollars an acre, giving the farmer a profit of thirty dollars to the acre, keeping the land in good condition and returning the elements of fertility by the tops left on the field. JOEL SHOMAKER.

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH.

Thinking. At the risk of being accused of "sawing too much on the same old string," I venture to repeat what I have often written, that farmers can spend part of their time to good advantage by using their thinking faculty. Confessing that I feel somewhat flattered at the result of previous efforts to set my readers to thinking, I have now taken up my pen for the purpose of promoting said active thought. Can I but ease life's burden for any honest tiller of the soil by putting him on the right track to make money, I will feel that I

have succeeded, in part at least, to leave my footprints on Time's sand.

Ginseng Culture. It is a very generally accepted opinion among those having had no practical experience that ginseng is hard to raise. To correct this erroneous idea is the excuse for again introducing the subject. This noble plant is a native of a large area of American soil, having propagated itself and grown wild, I know not how long, until it has now become almost extinct as the effect of man's greediness. The so-called "sang diggers" have assiduously hunted far and near, and dug every root, large or small, going over the same ground time and again, until there are now but few places where it grows wild anything like plentifully. Those places are in the states where laws have been enacted for its preservation.

Now, kind reader, I but state what any intelligent person is capable of comprehending, when I say that any plant that propagates itself and grows wild will do still better under man's intelligent care. The reason why those persons who first tried to grow ginseng failed is they did not comply with the conditions, and therefore started the idea that ginseng culture is impossible, or difficult, at best. If a farmer should try to grow potatoes by a culture entirely foreign to their requirements, and make a failure, as he certainly would, that would be no proof that potatoes are impossible of culture, or difficult, at best. The same of ginseng. Its successful culture is now a reality. It has come to stay—is a bonanza, a money-maker—let people, high or low, say what they will. True, the seeds and roots for planting are costly, and perhaps no farmer would be able to buy

enough to plant an acre outright, were the seeds and roots obtainable in such quantities, which they are not. But the beauty of this business is its capability of development. One can plant an ounce of seed, and all the space required is a bed three by four feet. The ounce will produce five hundred plants, and when they are one year old they can be transplanted into a new bed, one root every six inches each way. When three or four years old they will begin producing seed. The seed can be either planted or sold. The first crop of seed will bring at least five dollars, if sold, and if the roots are allowed to remain undisturbed the crop of seed each succeeding year will increase in quantity. If the grower so desires, he can keep planting the seed until he reaches the acre area, then he is independent. True, the process will be slow at the start, but like the laborer, who began work for one cent as his first day's wages, with the understanding that his employer should double his wages every day, and thus eventually attained unto a greater income, so the persevering ginseng-raiser also can reap bountifully in due season. But suppose the grower should choose to dig his first planting for market. In from three to five years the five hundred roots would make six pounds dried, which would bring from fifteen to twenty-five dollars easy. JEFFERSON D. CHEELY.

SPRING IS COMING

Now is the Time to Purify Your Blood

Take Hood's Sarsaparilla and Guard Against Danger.

Now is the time for purifying the blood, cleansing the system and renewing the physical powers. Owing to close confinement, diminished perspiration and other causes, in the winter, impurities have not passed out of the system as they should but have accumulated in the blood. For a good spring medicine we confidently recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla. By its use the blood is purified, enriched and vitalized, that tired feeling entirely overcome, and the whole body given strength and vigor. The appetite is restored and sharpened, the digestive organs toned and the kidneys and liver invigorated.

"I was in poor health and had eruptions on my body. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and the eruptions have disappeared and I am strong and able to do all kinds of work." MRS. R. A. KOHR, Fremont, Ohio.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5.

Hood's Pills do not cause pain or gripe. All druggists. 25 cents.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

THE CATALOGUE CROP.—Once more the catalogue season is upon us. The first catalogues have already come to my desk. To examine them, and see the change in leading varieties and learn about the new things that are offered as improvements over old ones, and to note especially the disappearance of those offered with extravagant claims in earlier years, is always a highly interesting task. Most of us have some favorite seedsman to whom we give the bulk of our order. As for myself, I usually give to this (my) favorite my order for all ordinary varieties of seeds, often buying in quantities sufficient for several years. I do this, for instance, with radish, melon, cucumber, squash, lettuce, beet, carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, and frequently with tomato, egg-plant, and various other seeds. Besides this, I send to quite a number of seedsmen for smaller lots of their various specialties and novelties. On the whole, I consider this job of selecting seeds and seedsmen a most important piece of business for every gardener. But the fact that one gardener has one favorite seedsman, and another gardener another, gives the best proof that the average advertising seedsman's seeds are reliable, and on the whole, give satisfaction to their customers. The best of them will occasionally make a mistake, or send you a package of seeds that fails to come up to expectations, not because the seedsman has tried to cheat, but because no man is infallible or exempt from making mistakes.

GROWING RHUBARB.—I think a great deal of rhubarb as a crop for profit. But we should not imagine that a bed once established is good for all time. It needs frequent renewal. The roots, in a few years, grow into large clumps with many crowns, and will send up so many stalks that the latter must remain small, simply for want of room and material. The only way to have very large stalks—those one inch or more in diameter—is by a renewal of the bed every third or fourth year. Of course, we may grow the plants from seed, which is a very easy thing to do. I think it is especially wise to do that if we desire to have plants for forcing. In the last issue of the "California Fruit Grower" I find the following, coming from a gardener near Denver, Col.: "I have been a gardener for many years, but have learned an important thing this season; it is, that rhubarb could be grown large enough for market the first season from seed. I sowed one fourth of a pound last spring early in May, and in October could have cut a hundred dozen bunches of marketable stalks. I never saw such a quick growth. I had stalks one inch in diameter, and the roots were perfect for transplanting this fall—a vast deal better than old clumps divided. A friend, who forces rhubarb under glass, saw my lot, and said that the plants were much superior for his purpose, and that the idea was an eye-opener to him. I account for it by liberal manuring and frequent irrigating."

It is true that rhubarb, in order to give us big, succulent stalks such as the market prefers, requires high feeding. We cannot very well use too much manure, and the plants respond very promptly to good treatment in this respect. High manuring, in fact, is indispensable for best results, but even with it, the matter of renewal should not be neglected. We usually spade up a portion of each clump of roots every third year, and use the pieces for making a new plantation. Don't be afraid to cut right through the clumps with the spade when doing this work. The object is to reduce the number of eyes in the crown, and thus reduce the number of stalks for another season. The holes left by the removal of roots may be filled with fine old manure or rich loam. When plants are grown from seed for the purpose of making permanent beds, they should be carefully sorted, all the smaller, weaker ones being pulled up as so many weeds, just as soon as their character can be determined.

GROWING CUCUMBERS.—One of my friends, A. H., of Otis, Ind., asks about growing cucumbers on sandy loam, and how to keep the bugs off. Sandy loam is all right, especially if it is, or recently has

been, in clover. If the land is rich enough, it is easy enough to grow a big crop of cucumbers, provided the blight, which now kills our plants long before frost almost every year, does not interfere. On a new piece of ground the vines may remain healthy and continue in bearing for this normal period. To prepare the land for the crop, I would spread on a heavy coat of good old manure, to be plowed under in spring. If wood-ashes are to be had, I would use them for a top dressing. Of other fertilizers, some superphosphate, or almost any ordinary commercial fertilizer (which consists largely of superphosphate) may be used in moderate quantity. The material which I invariably use as a protection against bugs also serves as plant-food. It consists of a mixture of tobacco-dust and bone-meal, although either alone will do it. This should be used very freely, not merely as a "sprinkling" or dusting, but as a covering for the ground, an inch deep, and a lighter one for the leaves. We scatter handfuls of it over and around every hill, repeating after heavy rains, and even then I have known the bugs, when very plentiful, to do serious injury to the plants. Dusting land-plaster or air-slaked lime, into which a little crude carbolic acid has been stirred, over the vines has often been recommended, and offers some protection. So also does another old remedy, of which one of my friends from Pittsfield, N. H., reminds me in a letter just received. This remedy consists of green cow manure, one quart stirred thoroughly into ten quarts of water, which is then to be freely sprinkled over the vines.

GROWING ONIONS.—Demand and price for onions have been very satisfactory this season, and people who succeeded in growing even a fair crop have no reason to complain of lack of profit. Undoubtedly a large area will be planted this coming spring. I have some inquiries about the business from an old subscriber (R. H. P., of Lincoln county, Mo.). He asks about the best ground for onions. I would prefer a sandy loam, but believe that almost any ground that is reasonably clean (free from rubbish, stones, etc.) and quite rich is suitable for onion-growing. Of course, it should have good drainage and organic matter enough to make it mellow. Among manures I give well-rotted stable manure, poultry manure included, the preference, with wood-ashes and phosphate next in order. A high-grade complete fertilizer might be used, although a home mixture of nitrate of soda (250 pounds), muriate of potash (200 lbs), superphosphate, such as dissolved South Carolina rock (300 lbs), with or without dried blood, cotton-seed meal, etc., would probably be cheaper and just as effective. Such a mixture would contain about four per cent nitrogen, thirteen and one third per cent potash, and six per cent phosphoric acid, all readily available. The amounts given are about right for an acre, although more might be given in some cases. As to varieties, I still consider the Prizetaker best for my purposes, although I made more money last season with Burpee's Gibraltar. This is very large, light straw-color, very handsome, very mild, and so far as tried on a rather small scale, a good seller. Of course, these varieties were grown by the new (transplanting) method. For the old onion culture, I think Danvers' Yellow can hardly be surpassed. Sow four to five pounds of fresh, water-cleaned seed to the acre, making the drills twelve or fourteen inches apart. In short, there is still money in onions. T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

CODLING-MOTH.

With our present knowledge of the habits of the codling-moth, the following suggestions as to methods of treatment seem to be warranted:

1. Spray with Paris green, as generally recommended, about one week after the blossoms fall, or in time to get the calyx cups well filled with the poison so that they may close over and hold it there.
2. Spray again with Paris green and Bordeaux mixture combined, or with kerosene emulsion, about June 1st, or better still, observe carefully and apply this when the eggs are being laid in abundance on the leaves, which at Lincoln occurs at about this date. Laboratory experiments indicate that kerosene emulsion will be more effective than Paris green at this time.

3. Scrape the bark and place paper bands around the tree about the last of June, when the larvae are beginning to leave the apple to pupate. Examine these two or three times, a week apart, and destroy the insects found beneath them.

4. If these methods are not wholly effective, owing to the proximity of neglected orchards, or from an unusual abundance of moths, later spraying, with either Paris green and Bordeaux mixture or kerosene emulsion, may do some good, but apparently cannot be expected to be wholly effective. Late spraying with arsenites is much more likely to injure the foliage than earlier applications, and if the other methods are thoroughly followed it will probably be unnecessary.

5. If larvae are still found in the apples in any considerable numbers toward the end of the season, place paper bands about the tree about September 1st, or a little earlier. Leave them there until the fruit is gathered from the orchard, then remove, and destroy the larvae hibernating beneath them.

6. Screens placed over the windows and doors of the cellar or rooms where apples have been stored will prevent those larvae which are taken in with the apples from escaping as moths in the spring.

The codling-moth eats too many apples in Nebraska, does not lay its eggs in the calyx cup at the time the trees are in bloom, where the young larva can feed on the poison prepared for it and dutifully pass away as a well-behaved worm should do. Apple-trees are generally in full bloom here about the first of May. By the 15th or 20th the calyx is tightly closed. During this time the codling-moth sleeps in its winter quarters. When the mists of the spraying-machine have cleared away, it emerges and carelessly scatters its eggs upon the upper surface of the leaves. This occurs at Lincoln about the first week in June. Eight to ten days later, or in less time when the weather is warm, the egg hatches and the young larva scuds for a hiding-place—generally within the calyx cup. A few eat a little of the leaf before doing this. It lives in the apple some ten to fourteen days, grows fat, leaves it, finds a hiding-place, spins its cocoon, changes to a pupa, and comes forth as a moth about a month after the egg was laid. The hustlers, which emerge early in spring, may pass through four generations in a season; the laggards get through but two; the majority three.

The codling-moth should be banished. This is not easy. Spraying alone, as generally recommended, will not do it. The moth is not easily poisoned. Lights in the orchard do not attract it. Sticky fly-paper will not hold the larvae. Only four fifths of the larvae enter at the calyx. Late spraying with Paris green alone is not effective. Spraying before the calyx closes does much good. Three sprayings at Gibbon saved eighty per cent of the fruit. In laboratory trials, kerosene emulsion, sprayed while unhatched eggs are on the leaves, is effective. Late spraying with Paris green and Bordeaux mixture combined, with whale-oil soap or with lead acetate and sodium arsenite, is safe and does some good. Scraping the bark and tacking paper bands around the trunk when the larvae are pupating will catch many. Screens in the cellar windows in spring will confine the moths which went in with the apples as larvae in the fall.—Nebraska Experiment Station Bulletin.

HOW TO TEST PARIS GREEN.

Paris green is generally favored as an arsenical poison by entomologists in preference to London purple, because it is of more even composition and easily tested.

Pure Paris green when dropped into common ammonia will entirely dissolve, leaving a clear, dark blue liquid, not green, like the color of the powder. If any sediment remains, this is some form of adulteration, and therefore represents an impurity. Chrome-green, which might be used to adulterate Paris green, will give the liquid a dirty green color, and will deposit a bright yellow sediment in the bottom of the vial. London purple is just as effective, provided it is of good quality, but its quality can only be determined by a chemical analysis.

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Our Farm.

THE FARMERS OF OHIO IN COUNCIL.

DURING the second week of January the farmers and their allies gathered in unusual force in Columbus. The following list of the different meetings will give some idea of the extent to which the agricultural interests of the state were represented:

Ohio agricultural convention.
State farmers' institute.
State association of swine breeders.
State association of shorthorn breeders.
State association of presidents and secretaries of fairs and expositions.
State veterinary medical society.
American Chester White record association.

Ohio Jersey cattle club.
Ohio Spanish Merino sheep breeders.
Ohio wool-growers' association.
Dairymen's association of Ohio.
Draft and coach horse association.
State association of farmers' clubs.
Agricultural student experiment union.
The meetings of all of the above-named organizations were unusually well attended, and most of them presented an equally interesting and profitable program.

The State farmers' institute was a signal and all-inspiring success, and it is not too much to say that a great impulse was given to agricultural progress by the meetings of this and of the other associations.

In addition to this there was also another event that naturally had a peculiar interest for the farmers of Ohio. This was the simple but impressive ceremony of the dedication of Townshend Hall, at the State University. It was eminently fitting that the dedication of this noble structure, perhaps the finest building devoted to purely agricultural education that was ever constructed, should take place at a time when the varied interests of the farmers of Ohio were so numerous and notably represented as they were the second week of January in Columbus. It is only justice to say that Dr. N. S. Townshend, in whose honor this magnificent building has been named, and whose memory it will serve to perpetuate, was in every way worthy of the honor thus conferred. It is only stating the simple truth to say that he was the "father of agricultural education" in America. It was he also who gave the original agricultural foundation of the State University a strength and dignity which is beginning to compel a recognition of the need, the value and the true scope of education in agriculture. It was also eminently fitting that Colonel J. H. Brigham, assistant secretary, and Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the division of chemistry of the United States Department of Agriculture, and Professor I. P. Roberts, of Cornell, the oldest teacher of agriculture in the country, counting years of actual service, should take a prominent part in the exercises of the occasion, for it marks an epoch in the agricultural history of our nation.

Among the resolutions adopted by the agricultural convention, the following can scarcely fail to interest the readers of the **FARM AND FIRESIDE**:

Whereas, The legislature of Ohio has taken steps preliminary to the celebration by the state of the centennial anniversary of its admission to the union in 1903; and, whereas, we heartily approve of such a project, and particularly desire the celebration of our wonderful progress in the mechanical arts and agricultural improvement, which success lies at the foundation of all improvements in material things in the history of the state; therefore, be it

Resolved, first—That we heartily favor the proposition of making an exposition of products of Ohio worthy of the rank of the state in power, wealth and culture.

Second—That we favor the establishment of the place of celebration of such centennial near the center of the state, in order that all may have, so far as possible, an equal opportunity of visiting the exposition, and that the transportation of exhibits and visitors may be attended with the least possible expense.

Third—That we recommend to the State Board of Agriculture the offer (by and with the authority of the general assembly of the state) of the use of its beautiful park near the capital of the state, thus saving to the state several hundred thousand dollars, and making it possible to erect permanent structures for the future use and pleasure of all the people.

Fourth—That the United States government should be asked to contribute in

money and exhibits in a manner and to an extent commensurate with the rank which Ohio holds among her sister states.

Another resolution was adopted, requesting the general assembly to create a bureau of animal industry, to be placed in charge of the State Board of Agriculture.

Other resolutions were offered and unanimously adopted, recognizing the work done by the dairy and food commissioner, and asking the general assembly to take measures to stamp out the San Jose scale.

The former resolution read as follows:

Resolved, That the farmers and stock-raisers stand as a unit to support and fortify our dairy and food commissioner. We acknowledge the recognition of our interests in appointing one of our number as a special deputy to ferret out and prosecute all violations of the laws pertaining to our dairy products.

We respectfully request that, in the prosecution of the cases that come under the care of this special deputy, he be given full authority and the substantial support of the department, that violators of the law may be speedily convicted or acquitted; for without the loyal support of the department his labors must be ineffectual, and the ends of justice not meted out to those who would destroy the profitable production of dairy products.

After the election of five members the state board held a meeting and elected the following officers:

President, C. Bordwell, Clermont county; vice-president, L. G. Ely, Fulton county; treasurer, J. C. Bower, Franklin county; secretary, W. W. Miller, Erie county. Assistant secretary Fleming holds over until the election next year.

W. R. LAZENBY.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM FLORIDA.—Another freeze—January 3, 1898, the mercury registered twenty-eight degrees in Lee county by the government instruments. Ten thousand crates of tomatoes had been shipped, but three fourths of the crop were killed. Cucumbers, beans and egg-plant were all killed. We have plenty of young egg and tomato plants to reset, but the crop will be late. Bananas were set back six months. Tamarinds, sapodillas, Avocado pear, mangoes, etc., were not much hurt. Pineapples in the open air were injured, so we may look for a half crop next June to September. Our delicious guavas were hurt, so we will have a short crop this year. Oranges, lemons and grape-fruit are all right, with no loss of fruit or leaves. Our Lee county grape-fruit trees each now have from \$25 to \$300 worth of fruit on them. Citrus fruits, except limes, have never received any amount of injury in Lee county. The Caloosahatchee river and bay run through the northern part of the county, from Lake Okechobee to the gulf, and seem to be the Rubicon damaging frosts do not often cross. Our cabbage, cauliflower, Irish and sweet potatoes, celery, strawberries, beets, radishes, peas, lettuce, onions, etc., are all safe. We raise Cuban tobacco that yields one third to one half in pounds of the yield in Kentucky, but our growers refuse one dollar a pound. Lee county has an area of 5,000 square miles, about as large as ten counties of Ohio, my native state, and the freezes have brought it into notice and settlement. The past three years have doubled our population and wealth, and given us good stores, steamers, hotels and electric lights. Good orange and vegetable lands can be had from \$3 to \$30 an acre, and five acres are worth more to a family than one hundred and sixty in the North. Fort Myers, Fla. L. C. W.

FROM WEST VIRGINIA.—Webster county is in the central part of the state, and contains four hundred and fifty square miles. Addison, the county-seat, is a thriving little town on Elk river, about seventy-five miles above Charleston, the state capital. Addison is noted as a summer resort, and thousands of visitors come here every summer to drink the famous water from the salt sulphur springs. This mineral water here is, beyond a doubt, the best in the world. It is clear, bright, cool and good to drink, and taken internally, or externally by bathing, is good for rheumatism, dyspepsia, stomach trouble and many cutaneous diseases.

Webster county is mountainous, but there are thousands of acres of good farming land which can be purchased at from \$2.50 to \$5 an acre, according to location and quality. For the past ten years this county has been the home of the lumberman, and millions of feet of the nicest poplar timber in the world have been cut and floated down the Elk, Gauley, Williams, Holly and Kanawha rivers.

The West Virginia and Pittsburgh is the only railroad within our county. It extends from Clarksburg, on the Chesapeake and Ohio, by way of Cowen, to Camden-on-Gauley. At this place is located a boom and one of the largest lumber-plants in the state.

We have plenty of room for good, energetic and desirable citizens, and invite them to come to Webster. We have good local markets. Corn is seldom less than 75 cents a bushel; wheat, \$1.25, and potatoes, 50 to 65 cents; butter, 20 cents a pound; pork, 7 and 8, and bacon, 9 and 10. Hay, oats and provender, within six or eight miles of Addison, command good prices. In fact, everything the farmer raises commands good prices. We have not enough farmers; we import too much flour, chop, hay, etc. We are not self-sustaining, and we want more farmers to till our land. The soil is rich and productive. Addison, W. Va. B. D. H.

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1 pkt. Pumpkin, Giant, 30s. 1 pkt. Geranium, Fley mix 12s.
1 pkt. Herbs, mixed, 125s. 1 pkt. Dahlia, dbl. & agl. 20s.

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Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

PROFITS FROM POULTRY.

FARMERS do not give the hens credit for all that is done by them. The proper mode of estimating the value of poultry and eggs is to compare the work of the fowls with something else on the farm. One who has given the matter consideration draws a very nice comparison by stating that eggs are produced largely at certain seasons from the waste products of the farm, and that in winter fifty dozen eggs will bring more cash to the farmer than a load of hay, which occupied a patch of ground larger than the poultry-yard to grow it, to say nothing of the men and teams to plow, harrow, mow, rake, load and haul the hay to market. Yet the fifty dozen eggs can be laid by only five hens in the year, and the profit will be greater than from an acre of wheat or corn after the cost of the production of the grain has been subtracted. Fifty hens, then, should give the same results (with a liberal allowance for the cereals) as can be obtained as profits from ten acres at the prices ruling from grain last spring, and one does not have to wait until harvest time to get the profits from the hens.

Ducks should begin to lay now, but as this is about the coldest portion of the winter, care must be given, as the food allowed will quickly freeze, and the eggs crack open from the same cause. When ducks are compelled to drink very cold water they are liable to be attacked with cramps. This does not happen frequently with adults, but the young ones are very subject to it, and as ducks lay very early in the morning usually, they should not be let out too soon, while their quarters must be dry and the floor kept well covered with cut straw, hay or leaves. When feeding them they must have free access to water and the water-trough, and the water should be kept warm with a small night-lamp. Feed them soft food, have it stiff, like crumbly dough, and feed it warm, removing all that is uneaten. Give food three times a day—cooked turnips, ground meat, corn-meal, bran and ground oats combined being excellent, or either alone.

POULTRY AS A BUSINESS.

Let every farmer carefully estimate the cost of the things he produces in the form of labor. He need not put down the sums he expends out of his pocket, but simply endeavor to place a value upon the labor he himself bestows on every department of the farm and for each crop. If he is a "business man," that is, if he knows what he is doing by keeping an account of his operations, as every man who is in business does, or should do, he will have no difficulty in classifying the receipts and expenses, and especially the cost of labor. Next let him estimate the space or number of acres of land he has given every one of the crops, as well as the plowing, harrowing, seeding, cultivating, harvesting, hauling, shipping, etc., and charge interest on the capital invested. After he has done this let him take up poultry, place a value upon the meat and eggs, the cost of the food, and the labor bestowed—the labor particularly—and then compare the result from the poultry with those from the larger stock and regular crops. He will find that if he had kept more hens, and given them only one fourth of the care and labor bestowed on other sources of revenue on the farm, he would have had a larger balance in his favor. By looking over the statistics he will find that poultry produces more than sheep, and that our enormous wheat crop is not much greater in value, annually, than the products of fowls. With markets always ready, and with cash returns every month in the year for poultry and eggs, the farmer uses the most profitable sources of income as a "side business," and expends his energies over large areas, being fortunate if he can clear as much as \$10 or \$20 an acre a year, while right under his eyes his fowls, on a few rods or acres, give him quick returns both summer and winter, which he does not recognize as belonging to "farming," but which source of revenue he could utilize to the best advantage if he would give poultry his attention as a business.

DISINFECTING FOR ROUP.

Where roup has occurred, and breaks out every year, the remedy is to disinfect the ground occupied by the fowls. To do this, remove the birds to a new location, and keep them there until next year, as it requires time to get rid of the disease. Dissolve one pound of sulphate of copper and one of copperas in twenty gallons of boiling water, and add a pint of sulphuric acid. Sprinkle every portion of the ground with this once a week for three months, frequently spading the top soil, and also treat the building in the same manner.

WATERING AT INTERVALS.

It is not agreeable to fill a trough with water and have it freeze in fifteen minutes after so doing, and it entails labor in breaking the ice from the troughs. Fowls can be given water three times a day. Give warm water as an invigorator on cold days, and allow it to remain in the troughs until it is liable to freeze, throw out that not used, and give warm water again during the day. Morning, noon and night waterings will answer, and there will also be more freedom from damp floors.

FROZEN COMBS.

A frozen comb on a fowl is a serious injury, being the same as a frozen limb on a human. Of course, fowls suffering from such torture will not lay, and should be well protected, as frozen comb is a frequent occurrence in a cold climate, the feet and wattles also being attacked. Apply cold water, using a soft sponge, until the temperature of the parts is raised, wipe dry and apply ichthyol once a day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

POULTRY ON THE FARM—THE COLONY PLAN.—There are few farms on which poultry is made as much of as it might be, although many of our progressive farmers are becoming to realize that fowls, if properly attended to and well selected, are the best-paying stock on the place. On farms where they can be given unlimited range, their keeping will cost comparatively nothing. Where a large number of fowls are to be kept on the colony plan, I have found it to be the most profitable and economical. Build houses, say 10x10 feet, on 4x6 inch sills, so as to be moved, if desired, and place them some distance apart. In a pasture or in the corner of a meadow are both excellent locations, and it will be better still if they are convenient to water. Put thirty to fifty hens in each house, but no cock. It will be necessary to look after them and lock the house each night, if there is danger of chicken-thieves or vermin getting at them, but aside from this they will need little attention and no feeding during the spring, summer and fall months, as they can amply supply themselves from the fields, grasses, weed-seeds and insects, furnishing the exact food nature destined for them. The houses should be provided with plenty of nests, and if the hens are inclined to lay outside of the houses they should be confined a portion of the day for a time, until they become accustomed to laying in the nests provided for them. The droppings should be removed every two or three days, and the houses thoroughly cleaned, whitewashed and disinfected two or three times a year. The breeding-pen can be built the same as the other houses, but should be nearer the farm buildings, and a cock and ten or a dozen hens kept in a house. One breeding-pen will doubtless supply all the eggs for hatching needed on an ordinary farm. The houses can be built very cheaply. A 10x10 foot house, seven feet high in front and five feet in the rear, with three windows, made of rough boards, battened and papered inside with building or tarred paper, with felt roof, need not cost more than ten dollars aside from the labor, and three or four of them will accommodate all the fowls a farmer is likely to care to keep, unless he is going into poultry very extensively. I should use pure-bred fowls only for breeding purposes, but the laying hens might be crosses of pure breeds, and they should be such a cross as to produce good winter layers, but if the farmer has not the time to make experiments, it would perhaps pay him best to stick to one breed. Egg production being the main object, he should select a breed suited to his liking from among the egg-producing strains. If he resides in a section where the winters are not severe he will do well to get Leghorns, Andalusians or Minorcas; any strain of which is amply able to take care of themselves if given free range, as they are all great egg producers. If he desires to raise fowls for market as well as to produce eggs, and the winters are severe in his locality, he should select Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes or Brahmas, all of which are good winter layers, and the two first named are perhaps the best of all-around fowls. In the winter it will be necessary for him to visit his flocks twice a day and supply them with food, water and grit, but this is certainly no more of a task than caring for and milking three or four cows; and one hundred and fifty hens properly cared for will bring in more money than three cows,

and with less labor. During the hatching-season he should raise all the chicks he possibly can, to renew his stock of layers, and the old laying hens and young cockerels can be marketed as desired, either in the fall, winter or spring, as best suits his conveniences and the state of the market. The breeding birds should be kept for two or three years, and the layers renewed, or partially renewed, every year. By this method fowls can be kept on the farm at little or no expense, with a small amount of well-directed labor, and at a much better profit on the capital invested than from any other of the farm animals. L. E. K.

EXPERIENCE WITH ROUP.—In the December 15th issue of FARM AND FIRESIDE I noticed an inquiry "can roup be cured?" The answer given was that the surest cure is to exterminate the entire flock. My remedy is not to destroy the flock, but try this, as it cured mine. When in a debilitated condition take prepared chalk and red pepper, two thirds as much chalk as pepper, mix into a paste with water, and make into pills one half inch long and as large around as convenient for the hens to swallow. One application has been sufficient to affect a cure for my hens; but give it to them night and morning until cured. J. E. T. Boise, Idaho.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Ground Shells.—J. T. C., Spring Valley, Ill., writes: "How should ground oyster-shells be given to poultry?"

REPLY:—They may be scattered over the yard, allowing the fowls to help themselves, as they will only consume what they need.

Preserving Eggs.—C. E. M., Paxton, Neb., writes: "Give the best and surest way to preserve eggs by packing."

REPLY:—Experiments made show that packing in wood-ashes have given the best results, but if eggs are used from yards in which there are no males, they will keep twice as long as when fertile eggs are used.

Chicks in a Cellar.—B. R. S., Carbondale, Ill., writes: "Can I hatch and raise early chicks in a cellar that is large, dry and roomy?"

REPLY:—It depends on whether hens or incubators are used. If the cellar has plenty of light, so that the sun's rays can be admitted, no difficulty will be met. If incubators are used and the chicks raised in brooders, personal attention must be closely given.

Foot and Leg Disease.—T. D. M., Munkers, Oregon, writes: "My fowls have some kind of foot and leg disease. Scale appears, toes get crooked and fowls finally die."

REPLY:—It is difficult to give cause unless mode of management is stated. If they roost in trees the feet may become frozen on severe nights, or scratching in wood-ashes may cause the difficulty. Apply crude petroleum twice a week.

Molting.—O. B. M., Adrian, Minn., writes: "We have a few hens hatched in 1896 that are not yet through molting. Would it be advisable to use a stove? We have 100 hens in a house 14x20 feet."

REPLY:—When fowls are fed heavily, and on food that is very oily, they frequently molt out of season. A stove will be serviceable if the house is very cold. The house is too crowded. One half the number would be more than the space will comfortably accommodate.

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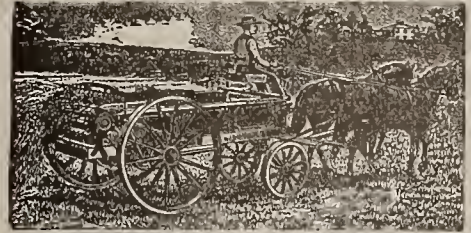
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Queries.

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Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Soy-beans.—D. L. W., Houston, Texas, and others. You can buy soy-beans of the seedsmen who advertise in this paper.

Beardless and Hulled Barley.—L. C., Rochester, Kan. Beardless and hulled varieties of barley are listed in a number of seed catalogues. See advertising columns for addresses of seedsmen.

Tobacco Culture.—J. S., Arlington Heights, Ill. Send five cents to Superintendent of Documents, Union Building, Washington, D. C., for Farmers' Bulletin No. 6—“Tobacco; Instructions for Its Cultivation and Curing.”

Chickweed in the Garden.—J. T. B., Factoryville, Mich., writes: “How shall I rid my garden of chickweed. We have thought of seeding it with oats and clover for one season. Would you recommend that, or would clover alone be better. Also, would it be a good plan to manure the ground before seeding, or would some other course be better?”

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—Chickweed bothers us mostly in the fall. Grow any early hoed crop, like peas, early onions, table beets, etc., and then when this is off plow and sow to oats and peas, rather thickly. This will make a strong growth by fall, and give the chickweed no chance. Or grow celery as a second crop. The violent stirring of the soil, needed for hanking, will keep the chickweed down all right.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Garget.—E. L., Vera, Ill. What you describe is nothing more nor less than a mild case of garget. Milk your cow in a thorough manner at least six times a day, until all soreness has disappeared and the milk has become perfectly normal. After that milk her three times a day.

Tonic Spasms.—E. L. E., El Dorado Springs, Mo. Your gelding, according to your description, suffers from periodically returning tonic spasms. Occupying a stall with a stallion, who, as you say, has been his mate for five years, has nothing to do with it. More I cannot tell you, except that it is a case which requires, in order to make a reliable diagnosis, an observation of an attack and a close inquiry into everything that can be accused of being a possible cause.

Answers About Hogs.—J. S. A., Linkville, Mo. Any morbid affection or disease of the respiratory organs which causes any irritation of the larynx, will produce more or less coughing as well in hogs as in any other animal. Coughing also is a usual or frequent attendant of swine-plague. I cannot imagine for what purpose you want to give concentrated lye to hogs, except it be that you wish to convert them into soap while yet alive. If common salt is given to hogs, it must be in very small quantities; large doses are poisonous to them and easily become fatal.

Umbilical Hernia.—F. H. B., Mooreton, N. D. What you describe is an umbilical hernia, but if no increase in size can be observed there is yet some prospect that it will disappear, and as there is very little danger of incarceration and the colt or filly yet young, I advise you to wait until next summer, and if still then it has not disappeared, to have it operated by a competent veterinarian. Unless your filly is otherwise an extraordinarily good one, it is not advisable to keep the same for breeding, because such slight defects are often transmitted upon the offspring.

Chronic Founder.—R. K. F., Manchester, Mich. Your veterinary graduate is right. If he had treated the horse from the beginning the same probably would have been restored to soundness, which is now out of the question. The only thing that can now be done to benefit the horse is proper shoeing, perhaps with a good bar shoe. Give all such traveling “Professors” and all other quacks a wide berth. They only want your ten-dollar bills, and do not care what may become of your horse. If the proposed operation is performed, the probability is that one nice day the whole foot of the horse will slough off.

Swine-plague.—W. E. H., Lacrosse, Ill. What you describe is swine-plague (so-called hog-cholera). The disease among your hogs presents somewhat different features only in so far as, according to your description, the principal seat of the morbid process seems to be on the surface of the body and not in interior organs, as is usually the case. As far as a treatment is concerned this is more favorable, because morbid changes on the surface of the body are accessible, while those in interior organs are not. In cases like yours the animals to be treated should be removed from the rest of the herd and be taken to a clean and non-infected place; there all the dead and decayed tissues should be removed, or he destroyed by caustics, and then the diseased surfaces be disinfected with a four or five per cent solution of carbolic acid or of creolin. After that the sores should receive (twice a day) an antiseptic dressing until the same have healed. What

kind of (mild) antiseptic is to be preferred and in what way, or how, the dressing is best applied, depends upon the seat and extent, or severity, of the morbid process. With this treatment all those animals will have a fair chance of recovery in which the morbid changes on the surface of the body are not too extensive, or in which important interior organs are not also seriously affected.

An Itching Skin Disease.—J. W. W., Red Cloud, Neb. As soon as the weather will permit it, give your mule a good wash with warm water and soap and then, before the same is perfectly dry, another good wash with a five-per-cent solution of creolin in warm water; apply both washes with a good stiff brush. The creolin wash must at least once be repeated in about five days, but it must not be neglected to thoroughly clean and disinfect after each wash not only the stall, but also everything that comes in contact with the mule, for if that is not done the treatment will be in vain. In some cases even a third wash may be necessary.

Lice on Cattle.—J. E. M., Princeville, Ill. If the cows are very lousy and the weather is too cold to give them a good wash, have the stall well cleaned and genuine Persian insect-powder dusted into the coat of hair of the cows, and then about six hours later, but before the lice that have tumbled off have come to again, have the stall once more thoroughly swept. As soon as the weather will permit have the cows thoroughly washed either with a tobacco decoction, or with a five-per-cent solution of creolin in warm water and the stall thoroughly cleaned after the wash. Daily grooming, with an abundance of good food, also disposes of a great many lice.

May be Habitual Luxation of the Patella.—L. D. L., Marathon, Iowa. Your description is very indefinite. What you intend to describe may be an habitual luxation of the patella. If it is, put the patella (knee-pan) in its place, which, in such a case, is easily done. Apply a good blister-oil of cantharides, prepared by any druggist, by heating one part of cantharides and four of olive-oil for one hour in a water-bath, to both sides of the lower part of the knee, or stifle-joint, and keep the horse standing (tie the same in such a way that he cannot lie down) for a few weeks. The application of the blister may have to be repeated on the fourth or fifth day. If the ailment of your horse is not a luxation of the patella, have the same examined by a veterinarian.

Warts.—R. H., Olinda, Shasta Co., Cal. It is not advisable to attempt a removal of the warts on the udder and teats of the cow as long as she is in milk. If you cannot wait until the warts disappear of their own account, you may put a ligature as close to the skin and as tight as possible around the neck of each wart. As material for the ligature, a thread of surgeon's silk will answer for the small ones and the “waxed-end” used and made by shoemakers for the larger ones. But with this you must wait, as far as the warts on the udder are concerned, until the cow is dry. Those on the head may be treated in the same way. Sessile warts, or warts that are flat and without a neck, may be removed as has been so often described in these columns, by careful and repeated applications of nitric acid, or of a concentrated solution of corrosive sublimate in alcohol if the same are small and situated on delicate skin, but care must be taken to bring the acid or the sublimate in contact with nothing but the wart.

Farcy.—J. C. O., Dakota City, Iowa. Farcy, or as you call it, “bottom farcy,” is neither more nor less than external glanders, and being a very contagious and exceedingly dangerous disease, dangerous also to mankind, its existence must be immediately reported to the proper state authorities. From your description, however, it must be concluded that the case in question is probably nothing but a local lymphangitis, which is not contagious and presents only a somewhat similar aspect to farcy. As in such a case there must be absolute certainty in regard to the diagnosis, I advise you to have your mare either subjected to the mallein test (mallein with directions how to use it, can be obtained from the “Pasteur Institute,” in Chicago), or to inoculate a guinea-pig subcutaneously with the discharges of one of the abscesses or ulcers of the mare's hind leg. If this is done and the disease is farcy, the guinea-pig will soon show it and will die, while in case of lymphangitis nothing more serious than a local abscess will develop.

Ran a Nail Into the Foot.—A. G. R., White Water, Kan. The case you inquire about, evidently, has not been properly treated, otherwise the frog would not “have all dropped off,” and a “crack across the heel that will not heal up” would not exist. As it is, the best advice I can give you is to have the horse treated by a competent veterinarian, because if further mistakes are made in the treatment of such a foot, the horse not only may become a worthless cripple, but may even die. If no good veterinarian is available and you are compelled to attend to the treatment yourself, three vital points must not be neglected, but must receive the strictest attention. (1) All loose and decayed horn must be carefully removed (cut away), with a sharp hoof-knife. (2) The whole ulcerating surface must be carefully cleaned and disinfected. (3) The same must be kept clean and be suitably protected against any contamination with dirt or manure, etc., and against other injurious influences acting from without. The cleaning may be done with warm water and a clean sponge; as a disinfectant a two to five per cent solution (one to five hundred to one to two hundred) of corrosive sublimate in clean water will answer; the necessary protection is best effected by first dressing the whole morbid or diseased surface with a layer of absorbent cotton saturated with a solution of corrosive sublimate in water, by applying on top of this one or more layers of common cotton, or enough to give a good protection, and by keeping the dressing in place with a good strong bandage or by means of a leather shoe made for that purpose. The dressing must be renewed, first twice, and afterwards once a day. On the first day the corrosive sublimate solution may be used in the strength of one to two hundred, but afterwards a strength of one to five hundred will be sufficient. After everything has again become covered with horn, but not before, it will be time to have a shoe with a removable cover put on. When this is done, the space between the sole of the foot and the cover should be tightly filled, and be kept filled with cotton, not only for protection, but also to cause gentle pressure upon the newly produced horn, and thus prevent it from growing too rapidly and becoming abnormal (morbid and brittle in texture). The cotton in contact with the sole must be removed every few days.

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Our Farm.

THE DISPOSAL OF FARM AND VILLAGE SEWAGE.

HAVING experimented for several years on the disposal of sewage in a locality where sewer-pipes are not in reach, I thought it worth while to offer to the readers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, the conclusions I have thus far reached.

KITCHEN SEWAGE.

I have used a very satisfactory sewer made as follows: First get a steel kitchen sink, to be had for two or three dollars; to its waste-pipe attach a lead sewer tram, to that a one-inch water-pipe, ten to fifteen feet long, the outer end of this to empty into the sewer. With every thing at hand, a plumber, or any handy man with the tools, could put all together in an hour or two. Make the sewer, by first digging a ditch twenty inches wide and two feet deep; where there is a deficiency of fall the ditch need not be more than eight or ten inches deep at the beginning. Connect the waste-pipe by half-a-dozen four-inch drain-tile or a board box to protect the slops from

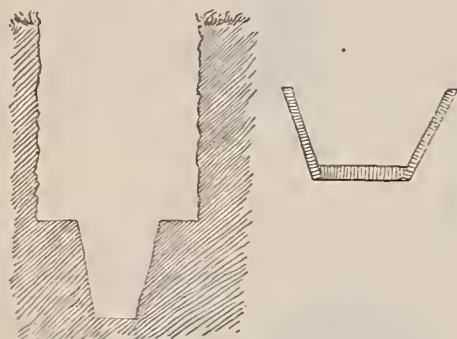


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

frost where the ditch is shallowest. The fall should not be less than six inches to the rod; make it artificial if not natural. The greater the fall and the longer the sewer can be made, the better. The steeper the grade the farther the sediment will be carried in the waste water before being deposited. A grade of only six inches to the rod will fill up at about fifty feet, and any longer sewer will be labor lost. The sewer may be twice that length if the fall is one foot to the rod. Now, having dug the ditch the proper length, next dig a ditch in the bottom of the first ditch ten inches wide at the top and as narrow as the spade will cut at the bottom; dig as deep as your spade will cut, and smooth the sides and bottom carefully. Now, when all is finished you will have a ditch shaped as in Fig. 1. Cover the ditch at the shoulder (A) with pieces of board cut a proper length to lay cross-wise—any old boards strong enough to hold up the superincumbent earth and have an approximately tight joint, will do. Fill the ditch with earth, and your sewer is finished. Such a sewer or earth cavity, will receive and distribute through the soil, without overflow or difficulty, all kitchen slops from an ordinary family. No tile should be used, except to introduce the discharge-pipe, as they will prevent the dissipation of the slops through the soil and exclude plant roots from entering. With such a sewer, kitchen slops will give no further trouble than to pour them into the sink. The whole cost, labor included, need not be more than ten dollars, and it will pay for itself in labor saving every year of its existence. A fifty-foot sewer will last an ordinary family two or three years. A new one should then be dug, the old one sealed up tight when the waste-pipe is transferred to the new one. When the second is full of sediment, the first may be opened and cleared out. The sediment will be found inoffensive and good fertilizing material. Relay the board covering and refill your ditch and you have a sewer as good as new. Thus alternating, the two sewers will last indefinitely. Care should be taken to place such a sewer as far from the well as possible. There is less danger, however, from such a sewer than from the ordinary slop puddle. The discharge-pipe from the sink should be carefully packed around with earth at its entrance into the sewer to prevent the escape of unhealthy gasses. The sewer should be dug close to trees or vines or under the kitchen-garden where the sewerage will be largely converted into plant-food. I have seen corn growing beside such a ditch make fine ears with no other attention than the mowing of grass and big weeds from around it at haying time. During severe cold weather, if the discharge-pipe is not well protected a few quarts of boiling water should be poured

into the sink before putting cold water in in the morning to keep the pipe from freezing up. If it should freeze, wrap rags around it and pour on boiling water till thawed out. The discharge-pipe should not be screwed on tighter than can be unscrewed by hand. It will not leak and can be easily taken off when occasion requires. It will clog with grease occasionally and will need to be taken off, perhaps once a year to be cleaned out.

CLOSET SEWAGE.

The common privy-vault is a disgrace to civilization. It is a breeding-place of nearly all the flies that infest farm and village kitchens, full of malaria, and greatly increases the danger from typhoid and other zymotic diseases.

The closet-sewer is made on the same principle as the kitchen-sewer, but with double the fall. Two sewers will last indefinitely, the same as the kitchen-sewer. And after a sewer has filled it may be closed for a year, when it can be cleaned out in the same manner as the kitchen-sewer. The contents will be found inoffensive, and the best of fertilizing material. Sprinkle a few ounces of flowers of sulphur through the seat-holes once a week during fly time. It is death to maggots.

If the lay of the land is such that the kitchen-sewer can discharge at its outer end into the closet-sewer it will be a decided advantage in the way of washing the closet-sewer well down to the farther end of the closet-sewer. Under the closet-seat should be placed a flange board trough with a two-inch board a foot wide for the bottom (Fig. 2). This will allow a shovel to be used to clean out the trough should it become clogged in severe cold weather. This trough should slope towards the entrance of the sewer, with a fall of six inches to the foot. At the lower end should be a small door. At the upper end it should project eight or ten inches, the projection to be covered with a lid. Into this opening all chamber slops should be poured, and an eve trough from the building should empty into it. Occasionally a few buckets of water should be poured as rapidly as possible—hot water in frozen weather—to wash all contents well down into the sewer. Such a system on the farm might, at first thought, seem like unnecessary labor; but the kitchen-sewer is a great labor saver, and after a start is made the labor of the closet-sewer is little if any greater than the ordinary out-house, to say nothing of the difference in the civilization of the two systems.

M. W. GUNN.

SOME DAIRY RULES.

Remove the milk of every cow at once from the stable to a clean, dry room, where the air is pure and sweet. Do not allow cans to remain in stables while they are being filled.

Strain the milk through a metal gauze and a flannel cloth or layer of cotton as soon as it is drawn.

Aerate and cool the milk as soon as strained. If an apparatus for airing and cooling at the same time is not at hand, the milk should be aired first. This must be done in pure air, and it should then be cooled to 45 degrees if the milk is for shipment, or to 60 degrees if for home use or delivery to a factory.

Never close a can containing warm milk which has not been aerated.

If cover is left off the can, a piece of cloth or mosquito-netting should be used to keep out insects.

If milk is stored, it should be held in tanks of fresh, cold water (renewed daily), in a clean, dry, cold room. Unless it is desired to remove cream, it should be stirred with a thin stirrer often enough to prevent forming a thick cream layer.

Keep the night milk under shelter so rain cannot get into the cans. In warm weather hold it in a tank of fresh, cold water.

Never mix fresh, warm milk with that which has been cooled.

Do not allow milk to freeze.

Under no circumstances should anything be added to prevent its souring. Cleanliness and cold are the only preventives needed.

All milk should be in good condition when delivered. This may make it necessary to deliver twice a day during the hottest weather.

When cans are hauled far they should be full, and carried in a spring wagon.

In hot weather cover the cans, when moved in a wagon, with a clean wet blanket or canvas.—Farmers' Bulletin No. 63.

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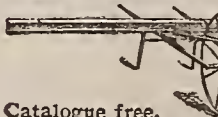


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Our Fireside.

THE OWNER OF BENTON FARM

CHAPTER III.

THE ARBITRATION.



WHEN Mrs. Benton entered Sciotoville, she slackened the horse's speed and drove rather slowly through Main street. At the intersection of Union street, a sign above a wide, double door displayed in large letters, the words,

"JAMES CROLY'S
Furniture Store."

Mrs. Benton drew up to the curb and alighted from the cart. She quickly hitched the horse to a post, and hurried into the shop.

A long room, each side of which was thickly set with furniture of all kinds, seemed to stretch away before her into dim distance; for at the other end there was an open door, and opposite it a window, which produced an impression somewhat like the perspective of a picture.

As she hesitated on the threshold, a neat-looking clerk came forward and asked her what he could do for her.

"I wish to see Mr. Croly," she replied.

"Come this way."

The clerk walked briskly over the hard, polished floor, and Mrs. Benton followed him. Presently they reached the open door. The clerk entered, and said:

"A lady to see you, sir."

Mr. Croly was writing at a desk, and, as the clerk spoke, he looked up inquiringly at the tall lady in black who stood before him. The clerk went out, and Mr. Croly rose from his chair, and indicating another near Mrs. Benton, said, courteously:

"Pray be seated, madam."

But Mrs. Benton stood still and gazed at him. He seemed to experience a slight embarrassment for a moment, and then he drew himself up and steadily returned her gaze.

"Oh, Jim! Jim! why did you do it?" she said, at last, and there was a note of wailing in her voice.

"Do what?" Mr. Croly asked, turning slightly pale.

"Let us think you were dead, and then come back and never tell us who you are. John did not know you. What did you mean by it? Did you want to spy on us, or did you want to torment us?"

"Have I spied on you, or tormented you, Aunt Alice?" Mr. Croly asked, with some spirit. "I had, and have, no bad motive. I may have been mistaken, but in all I have done I meant no unkindness to you or John. Sit down, and I will explain. Nevertheless, I am very sorry you have found me out. But perhaps I can induce you to keep my identity a secret, and to let things be as they are."

"Be as they are?" she repeated, huskily.

"Yes. Sit down, and I will tell you all about it."

They sat down near each other.

"In the first place," he said, "I did not know that you or that anybody thought I was dead."

"What else could we think? You never wrote, and we never heard a word of you in all these years. What else could we think?"

"I suppose it was a natural conclusion to arrive at. My excuse for acting so is that, at first, I was very angry at my father because I thought he did not treat me well, and I thought that I did not care whether he ever heard from me again. Afterward, when I became ashamed of myself, I thought that he would most likely prefer never to hear from me or of me. I got into business in San Francisco, and did fairly well, and was reasonably contented. But, as time went on, I became possessed with a longing to see my father and the old place again. I disguised myself, because I never had any other idea than that he would spurn me if I came to him on the claim of being his son. You know, Aunt Alice, that he was a very stern man to those who opposed his will, and he and I always had opposing wills. He wanted me to walk the chalk the way he laid it down, and I couldn't then. I thought him arbitrary and unreasonable. But, after a time, I remembered his many kindnesses, and my longing to see him became so great that I could no longer resist it. So, for a couple of months I let my hair and beard grow, and then, dressing myself in very poor clothes, I set out. Imagine my sorrow on learning that my father was dead. It is a proper punishment, though, for my disobedience. I heard about the will, too, and what a good, faithful lad John always was to him—like a son, which I had never been. I resolved never to discover myself and to go back to the West in a very few days. But, Aunt Alice, something happened, and I had to stay, even as I had to come. But I never meant to make myself known to any one, and never to trouble you or John with any claim to the estate."

"What happened? Why did you have to stay?" demanded Mrs. Benton.

"Well—because—I saw a young lady and loved her. In the hope of winning her, I resolved to stay and risk my recognition. In the event of that transpiring, I thought that it should make no difference to you and John. But I did not believe that I should be recognized. No one has recognized me but you, Aunt Alice, and, as I said, it need make no difference. Just keep my existence a secret, and John can still retain the property."

"What! Oh, Jim, you don't mean that?" said Mrs. Benton, incredulously.

"I do, indeed, Aunt Alice. I will never put forth any claim to Benton farm."

"But why? Why? It is yours! Your father willed it to you!"

"Because I do not feel myself worthy to receive it. I left my father just at a time when I could have been the most help to him. Your son staid with him, and assisted and comforted him to the last. The farm should be John's reward for his goodness to the poor old father forsaken by his own son. No, no, John is entitled to it, and so far as I am concerned he shall have it."

Mrs. Benton drew a long breath of relief. "John was good to your father. He did lots of hard work for him and was always respectful and obedient from long before you went away."

"And I never was," James Benton said, sadly.

"But what will you do if you let John have the farm?" Mrs. Benton asked.

"Oh, I have plenty. I did well in the West

you—you—love?" Mrs. Benton asked quickly.

"Yes, Aunt Alice."

"And will she marry you?"

"She has promised to do so."

Mrs. Benton's countenance showed distress and dismay. She drooped her head, and whispered almost audibly:

"Oh, my poor boy!"

James Benton watched her uneasily.

"I—I hope—Aunt Alice, that John—"

"Oh, no matter, no matter," said Mrs. Benton, with a little hysterical laugh. "John cannot have everything, I suppose, and you cannot be expected to give up everything. And there are other girls in the world just as good as Clara Dalton."

"And there is but one Benton farm," said James, gravely.

Mrs. Benton rose to her feet. "James, we have not shaken hands yet," she said.

James arose at once and extended his hand. She took it in both of hers and looked steadily into his face, while he looked as steadily into hers.

"And shall we thus bind the compact between us that John shall never know, and that the farm shall be his?"

"Yes, Aunt Alice. As you hold my hand now, you hold it on that promise."

"Mother, what are you doing?" asked a stern voice beside them.

The two hands fell apart as the man and woman turned toward the speaker. He was pale as death, and he looked reproachfully at Mrs. Benton.

"Mother, how could you do such a thing? I am ashamed of you," he said, in a voice in which grief and sternness were blended.



"MRS. BENTON LAID HER FACE AGAINST THE WALL AND SOBBED."

in cabinet-making, and I have established a good business here, which, I think, will grow still better. I really have no need of the farm, Aunt Alice."

There was a silence, during which Mrs. Benton gazed at her nephew earnestly, but with hope and relief in her eyes.

"I knew you the moment I saw you," she said at last. "You are not greatly altered, and your voice is just like your father's. I wonder that John did not recognize you."

"I think he was puzzled sometimes," James replied, with a smile. "But he was young when I left, and he has lived such a busy, earnest life since then, that I suppose he forgot me."

"But it seems strange that no one but me knew you. Some of your old friends and neighbors, for instance."

"I have been careful about meeting those who knew me. Most of them live in the country, and I never went to but one place there. I had escaped recognition so long that I suppose I became careless, for I thoughtlessly promised to come for Miss Dalton on the evening of John's birthday party. And it would have been all right if you had not seen me. I am sorry that you did."

"Is Miss Dalton the young lady whom

Mrs. Benton laid her face against the wall and sobbed.

"I have been outside the door there, and I heard everything. I never thought that my mother could get so low."

"Hush! oh, hush!" said James, holding up a warning hand.

John turned.

"Cousin Jim, I am glad to see you, though you may not believe it," he said. "I'm glad you've come back to claim your own."

"If you mean the farm, I shall not claim it," James said, taking John's extended hand and laying his left on John's shoulder. "Your knowing that I am alive will make no difference with regard to it. The compact between your mother and I shall remain unaltered."

"I cannot consent to it," said John. "I refuse to accept the gift—the sacrifice, it would be, and an act of injustice such as would cause Uncle John to turn over in his grave."

James looked at his cousin fondly and admiringly.

"You were as a good, obedient son to him while he lived, and now that he is dead, you will not consent to do anything you think he would not approve," he said.

"No, Jim, I will not."

"Cousin John, I know you. Nevertheless, I mean to do as I say. I believe that if my father could know of my intentions he would approve of it. It was only because he thought it his duty that he changed his will in my favor. In his heart he must have loved you best, and you really deserve to inherit the property."

"Oh, nonsense!" cried John. "Let's talk no more of it. It can never be. I utterly refuse to accept anything of the kind. Cousin Jim, cannot you come home with us—to your home—to-day?"

John's face had regained its color, and he spoke gaily and with an affectionate look into his cousin's face.

"Please excuse me to-day, John. To-morrow I can come, if you will not be too busy to see me."

"Too busy! No indeed! Come early, so that I can have all day in which to look at you. How natural you look now that I know who you are. No wonder I liked you, even when I thought you only a tramp. Say, Jim, you acted the role to perfection, though I thought you a queer one, because your old patched habiliments were clean. And your beard was too fine and well-kept for a tramp's. It was magnificent. Perhaps it was that that captured Miss Dalton's heart. She seemed to be much impressed by you that evening we stood talking by the gate."

John laughed gaily, and a flush arose to his forehead.

"Speaking for myself, I think that the mustache you wear now is more becoming to you. You look younger. I can see the same old Jim that I used to see. But I must take mother home—away. She is considerably upset. I can never be thankful enough that I came to town, and came in here in time to hear what she and you were saying. Are you ready to go, mother?"

"Don't," said James. "I cannot bear to hear you speak so coldly to your mother. You should be careful never to say anything to her that you may sometime regret, as I now regret my conduct to my father."

"I am so grieved that she should—" began John.

"Let that pass. It is between you and me now, John."

"So it is, Jim. To-morrow, then, you will not fail to come."

"Yes, be sure to come," said Mrs. Benton.

"Aunt Alice, I will."

The next day James drove out to the farm, and the friendly contest between him and John regarding its ownership was renewed.

James declared that he would make a will in John's favor, John replying that he would surely destroy it. At last James proposed that the property be divided; and when John refused as stoutly to accept the half as he had refused to accept the whole, James suggested that the dispute be settled by arbitration. At first, John refused this also, but at last he consented.

"Of course, Jim, it is all foolishness," he said. "No man in the land would decide upon giving me half with that will of uncle's before them. But to please you and to end this dispute I will consent to an arbitration."

"And you promise to abide by the committee's decision, even if it should give you half?" James asked.

"Yes, I promise," John answered. "But I am safe enough. Now we can talk about something else."

Mrs. Benton had listened to the conversation of the two young men with many appealing looks at John; but remembering his displeasure of the day before at the part she had taken in the matter, she dared not say anything to him now. So, when at last John listened to reason, so far as to consent to arbitration, she breathed a sigh of relief. The half, she told herself, was better than none at all; and five hundred acres of the best land in Ohio, with all those buildings and orchards was not to be sneezed at. James had said that he did not want the buildings, as he should live in town, and she knew he meant that they should belong to John's half.

"I am sure the committee will decide as James wishes," she told herself.

Her joy at the prospect of remaining in the house, which, above all others, was most like home to her, was great. She was touched, too, by James' generosity, and she took him to her heart as she had never done before. She realized that, in any event, she could trust him to do the right thing by John, if John would but let him.

The committee of arbitration consisted of three men chosen from the neighboring farmers. They were all men of good, practical sense, and possessed principles of honesty and fair dealing. They met on the day appointed in the parlor of the Benton house. The lawyer, with the will, arrived soon after; and they entered at once upon the business which had brought them together.

The lawyer, with some papers before him, sat at one end of the table in the middle of the room, with the members of the committee on each side of it. He was just starting to explain the case when the door opened and John appeared upon the threshold. They all looked up at him, and Mr. Woods asked, good-naturedly:

"Well, what do you want?"

"I want to say—" began John.

"We know what you want to say," interrupted the lawyer. "It isn't at all necessary for you to say anything."

"There must not be any undue influences brought to bear upon the committee," said Mr. Cliff, as if stating a fact in law; but his eyes twinkled mischievously beneath his bushy brows.

"Put him out! Put him out!" roared Mr. McCarty, who was part Irish and enjoyed a joke, or even the sign of one, hugely.

John, thus headed off, withdrew and shut the door.

The lawyer proceeded, after adjusting his spectacles.

"We all know," he said, "that Mr. Benton made two wills. By the terms of the first, his nephew, John Benton, was his sole heir and legatee. By those of the second, his son, James, occupies that position. But James, having knowledge of the first will, and feeling himself unworthy of the bounty conferred upon him by the second will, desires to set its conditions aside and to carry out those of the first, as if it yet existed. But young John, the nephew, entertains as high a regard for the second will as James, the son, entertains for the first. And so these two young men are quarrelling over the ownership of Benton farm; not in the ordinary way—one trying to get and keep all—but each generously endeavoring to give the other what he esteems that other's right. I must say that this is rather a novel attitude for human beings to assume toward each other, and presents a unique spectacle to the eyes of the world."

"The property is James Benton's by right of inheritance, and by this second and last will and testament of his father, John Benton. But, as I said a moment ago, he deems himself unworthy, in view of his past conduct, to benefit by these provisions of the law. He regards his cousin's right as being founded in justice and equity, and therefore paramount to his own, upheld though it is, by law and inheritance. He, therefore, desired to relinquish the whole of the property into his cousin's hands. But John refused to accept the whole, believing that James was moved to this step by quixotic notions of his own unworthiness. But, after long and earnest solicitation on James' part, John consented to abide by the decision of a committee as to whether he could, righteously and justly, accept the half of the property, nothing less than which will satisfy James. It is with a view of settling this friendly dispute that you have been called, gentlemen, to act in the capacity of arbitrators. I have stated the case in a nutshell, and if any point in it is not clear to you, you are, of course, at liberty to ask information concerning it. I will first, however, read the will, the only existing one of the late John Benton, Senior."

After the reading, the lawyer remained in the room long enough to answer the few questions put to him by the committee. Then he went out, but was soon recalled with the information that the committee had reached a decision. The presence of James and John Benton was also required in the room. The three were informed that, since the heir himself desired it, the committee could do nothing else than to decide the case as he wished, but that, taking into consideration the services of the nephew to his uncle on the one side, and the motives which actuated the son on the other, an equal division of the property was, in the committee's opinion, about the only fair and honorable way of settling the dispute. Assuredly, the nephew deserved some reward for the fidelity and affection he had shown Mr. Benton; and the half did not seem to the committee to be too much, or out of proportion for the love and service rendered.

When Mr. Woods, the mouthpiece of the committee, had finished speaking, he sat down and looked about him, seeing pleased looks upon every face except John's. That young man's countenance looked troubled, and when James took his hand, saying:

"You promised to abide by the decision, John," his answer revealed the source of his reluctance to do so.

"Yes, I promised. But, would Uncle John be pleased?"

"I think I can answer that question satisfactorily," interposed the lawyer. "There is an addition to the will that I did not read to the committee. I hope I may be pardoned for not reading it when I say that I wished to know what the committee's opinion unbiased by this addition, would be. I am happy to state that it coincides as perfectly with Mr. Benton's wishes as it has with those of his son."

The lawyer again opened the will and began to read:

"In my anxiety to repair what I considered an injustice to my son, I find that I have entirely overlooked my obligations to John Benton, my nephew. I owe him much; and in case my son returns, he will be left without a penny. This, I feel, would be a great wrong to him, and I earnestly appeal to my son to set it right. And, having all confidence in my son's generosity and integrity of purpose, I do not believe it to be necessary to do more than suggest to him my wishes as to an adequate recognition of all my nephew was to me, and all he did for me during his absence from home. John was, indeed, a great comfort and help to me; and I feel that it would scarcely be too much if my son should go to the extent of making over to his cousin the half of my possession

should they ever come into his hands. He's young on my son's generosity and high sense of honor to carry out these suggestions as herein stated.

I sign myself,

JOHN BENTON.

The lawyer laid down the paper and looked at John as did also the others. The troubled expression of his countenance had given place to one of joy. He rose to his feet.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I am satisfied with your decision. Since I find that it was my uncle's wish, I will gladly accept the half of Benton farm."

"John, I congratulate you," said James, rising and grabbing John's hand. "It is worth all the farm to me to know that my father had a good enough opinion of me and trusted me enough to believe that I would carry out his wishes with regard to you. That I did so, before I knew what those wishes were, adds to my happiness."

"You are both certainly worthy of congratulations," said the committee, coming forward to offer a hand to each of the young men. It was natural, perhaps, that the committee should feel an additional pride and satisfaction in its share of the proceedings. The lawyer, too, must have been satisfied with the state of affairs, for, as he and the committee were about starting for home that evening, he was heard to say, as if to himself, with a sort of dreamy smile:

"All's well that ends well."

THE END.

THE WIDOWER'S MITE.

MRS. H. M. PLUNKETT.

Fritz Bruen sat at the head of the bed on which lay the body of his wife, who had died a few hours before, with the still form of her dead-horn baby beside her, and the Mite sat on her little chair in the corner, wondering why her mother didn't wake up, and why she was sleeping with the sheet drawn up over her face. A sound as of a heavy box striking the ground at the door of the tenement, smote on the ear of Fritz, though his single-room apartment was on the fourth floor, and at the same instant the door of the room was opened by a kindly-looking German matron who addressed the Mite: "Come Elsie, Bertha has dressed the kitty up in her doll's clothes and they both are riding in her doll's wagon; come and see them." This was part of the kind plan she had made, so that the Mite—so-called from being one of the tiniest of children—should not witness the heart-breaking scene that was to follow in her own home. As Fritz heard the heavy footsteps of the men bearing the box up the narrow stairs, nothing but the thought of the Mite kept him from praying that God would kill him on the spot; and nothing can describe his agony as these alien hands lifted the body of his wife and placed it in the plain, pine box—the cheapest thing in the shape of a coffin that could be bought. Frau Scholle, his kind neighbor on the same floor, came in, and tenderly laid the dead babe beside its mother, and folded her arm over it; but she attempted none of the commonplace consolations, such as "she's better off so," for she had seen too much of the beautiful engrossing love of that husband and wife to feel that they could have any value, and she hastened back to her own front room to interest the children and keep them from looking out, as she knew that Fritz would ride on the seat of the wagon—for Fritz could not afford a hearse—and she knew that it would be hard to answer Elsie's questions as to why her father had gone away with the strange-looking long box.

The wagon stopped at the door of a church, where the sexton, the driver and Fritz, constituted all that, in the parlance of the wealthy, is called the "funeral cortege." They bore the body to the altar, the priest chanted a short service and sprinkled the coffin with water, which to Fritz's simple mind seemed a certain entrance to Paradise for his beloved Gretchen. The coffin replaced in the wagon, it pursued its way far beyond the city's limits to a country town where consins of Fritz owned a lot in a country cemetery, and, knowing his extreme poverty, had proffered the kindly hospitality of a last resting-place for Gretchen. The return journey took most of the day, so that the early autumn evening had already shut down when he got back; but in the meantime Frau Scholle had made up the bed with fresh linen of her own, had disposed of the unpainted pine shoe-box that had served for a crib for the Mite, and had let down the hanging-table that represented the "mahogany" of the upper circles, and placed on it a share of her own simple supper, and while he was eating it, she outlined her scheme of action for the evening. She said, "I shall undress Elsie in my room, and let her go to sleep in my arms, and then I shall bring her and put her into your bed, and in the morning I will come and get her and take her into my room to play with Bertha."

A world of compassionately tender action goes on in the homes of the poor constantly, in their times of need. Poor Fritz really slept but little. He constantly dreamed of Gretchen, and that the earth which it seemed to him the grave-digger had hustled into the paupers in the ground, with needless haste

and noise, was crushing the dear woman, and other equally dreadful thoughts filled his excited brain. When morning came he must dismiss all thoughts that interfered with work, for even this bare funeral had already brought him into debt, and there, sweetly sleeping, was the precious Mite, and she must be cared for. In helping his wife he had already become skillful in dressing her, and just as he had completed her toilet, a soft knock at the door announced Frau Scholle, who said, "You must come and take breakfast with us this morning," and Fritz with the sickening feeling that he couldn't eat in his own room with his wife forever away, mechanically followed the good Frau. At every moment when his hands were unoccupied with eating, he clung to the hand of little Elsie, with a confused misgiving that she might suddenly vanish from his sight; and so, when Frau Scholle came to get her, she found Elsie with all her street garments on, and to the amazed look of inquiry she gave him, Fritz said, "I can't go without her," and accordingly he arrived at the establishment where he worked bearing the precious Mite in his arms. Naturally, the proprietor directed a look of astonishment at the unwonted apparition, and Fritz, with a look of utter anguish, said, "I couldn't work without her," and as he saw a shade of half-amusement on the master's face, added, "She won't make a bit of trouble."

The establishment in which he was employed was one that formerly did a large business in the highest style of lithography, which has almost wholly been crowded out by various photographic methods; still, a small field remained to it, and Fritz conducted one of the most delicate processes connected with it. He put the Mite in an old arm-chair that had come down from the father of the present owner of the business, and with a few bits of colored paper she silently amused herself, occasionally casting a bright arch glance at her father when she had folded a bit into an especially surprising and interesting form, while Fritz shot many a furtive glance towards her as she silently worked. At last he saw that the time for her daily nap had come, and then he stepped over to her, turned the chair around to the wall, and folding his overcoat for a pillow, placed the dear little head on it, and soon his darling was in the land of dreams.

The proprietor was a taciturn man, but the infinite pathos of the whole scene unsealed his lips. "I've often wondered what we gave that old chair house-room for; now I see." Fritz had been in America but a little while when his wife died. Lithography holds out comparatively as slender means of livelihood in Germany as here, so he had come across the water, and the voyage and incidentals had used up all his savings, and as it was some time before he had obtained work, he was, indeed, hard up. He continued to carry the Mite back and forth every day, until the conductors on the cars all came to know him as the "man with the little girl;" and he paid Frau Scholle a small stipend for his breakfast, but took his lunches and dinners at a cheap downtown restaurant, where "the man with the little girl" came to be a regular feature.

When Christmas time came, Frau Scholle planned for the tree, that is seen in every German home, and knowing that Fritz's heart was too sore for him to join it, she made a little celebration for the Mite in his room, by pinning up a couple of branches that she had surreptitiously clipped from her own small tree, hanging under them a little basket that Bertha had modeled in her kindergarten, and a handkerchief in the corner of which she had outlined the initials "F. B." for Fritz. Frau Scholle could not deny herself the pleasure of having the Mite see her tree when it was lighted up, and though many of the gifts were the work of Bertha's hands, and were simple articles made from bright-colored paper, still they made quite a dazzling show to the young eyes accustomed only to the dull surroundings of a lithographic shop; and when she went back she had much to tell of the pretty triumphs of Bertha's fingers. Sometimes Bertha would bring a new specimen of her work into Fritz's room at evening, and by and by, he began to think that, perhaps, he was not doing exactly right by his dear daughter, in keeping her all to himself, when she could go to a free kindergarten, and learn not only to use her hands, but to read and write and draw. He discussed the matter with Frau Scholle, and finally he consented that after Easter, the Mite should go with Bertha to her school, and, fortunately a woman whose husband was in charge of an engine that couldn't be left in the afternoon, so that his wife was obliged to carry his dinner down town to him, took charge of little Elsie, and saw her safely to her father's workshop for the remainder of the day. Elsie soon learned to do all that the other scholars did, and when the next Christmas came round she had hemmed a handkerchief for her father and outlined his whole name, "Fritz Bruen," on it, and this year Frau Scholle induced the still sad-hearted father to come into her room and join in the celebration of Christmas; and very proud was the Mite, when her father showered down many kisses on her, as he realized how patiently she must have worked to prepare her gift to him.

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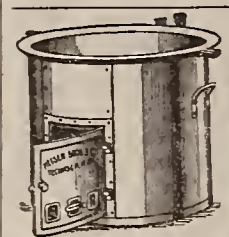
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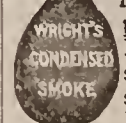
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As time passed on, the Mite rose from one grade to another, till she was ready for the schools where industrial education in its practical application to the needs of the working people is carried forward, and as Fritz had kept steadily at work, spending little beyond that needed imperatively, and depending for his pleasure on his earnings with Elsie, who delighted in repeating to him not only accounts of the work, but the lessons she was learning, Fritz was gradually and insensibly becoming educated, and had also become a little "forehanded." Frau Scholle suggested to him that he ought to hire the two-room apartment at the end of the hall, lately vacant, and thus give Elsie a little bed-room of her own; and she told Fritz that Elsie had a most beautiful surprise in store for him. He drew a small sum from his store in the savings-bank, and put it into Frau Scholles' hands, giving her full discretion in the premises, and a neat room was Elsie's when furnished. But Elsie had never told her father about her cooking lessons, and under Frau Scholles' tutelage, when all the furniture had been transferred, Elsie had prepared a savory evening meal, and set out the dishes, that had not been taken from the cupboard since poor Gretchen's death, on the little side-table, and she had added the luxurious touch of a nice tea-cloth of her own hemstitching. When Fritz came in he fancied that his helpful neighbor had prepared all this pleasure, but coming in to see how he took the surprise, she put a stop to all his praises, by telling him that his own dear little Elsie had cooked, as well as set forth this tempting evening meal. And then he clasped the dear child in his arms, saying, "Now we can have a home, indeed," and if the patient teachers who, at the end of personal sacrifice teach these poor motherless, homeless ones, could have seen how faithfully the widower's Mite made a sweet, bright home for him, they would have felt that the modern agencies of the kindergarten, the kitchen-garden and the cooking-school are among the truest means for the carrying out of the common "Bear ye one another's burdens."

MAKING OLD PEOPLE HAPPY.

I do not mean giving them a party and advertising the fact that they are old, though that often gives them great pleasure. I mean giving them every-day happiness. A dear elderly lady, who used to make her daughter's friends welcome, and worked very hard for their enjoyment, was lately speaking of how she missed the society of the young women since her daughter had married and left home.

"But you must take a great deal of comfort with their girlhood friends," I remarked. "Most of them are settled around you. Some you visited in sickness, and some you mothered while here at school and lonely but for you. Some of them have spent days and weeks in your country home, and they must be glad to return your kindness now."

"No," she said, plaintively, "not one of them ever comes to my house unless one of the girls comes home. They know I am sometimes sick, and of course lonely, after such a household, but they never call to inquire for me. They have their parties and receptions, and never seem to think I would enjoy at least being invited. Young people care very little for old people these days."

I was touched the other day by hearing a lovely old lady say, "I've been in our church three years, but haven't got much acquainted yet. Folks don't ask for me when they call on my daughters and the girls. I can't help thinking sometimes that I would say, 'Mother or grandma is up-stairs. Won't you go up or have her come down?'"

Young girls can do nothing that is more beautiful than to hunt up such neglected saints, and give them the cheer of their presence—not only talking to elderly people of fresh, bright things, but what is even more gratifying to old age, listening with pleasure and sympathetic attention. Let me, too, remind my dear young friends, or those of us who are middle-aged young people, that we gain more than we give by associating with old people. They may not be up in the "standard" pronunciation, but they are rich in the language of the city whither we are journeying. They have gained experience, and most of them have learned in that way more than any young college graduate dreams of. Some one took off his hat to a child because it was full of great possibilities. But an aged person deserves more honor because he is like a hero returning from the battle. The thing which makes me most enjoy an aged Christian is that he is greatly beloved by the Klug of saints. Old age is nearest the throne, and should have a reverence only second to that we give the King.—Epworth Herald.

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THE ADVENT OF THE "NEW" CHILD.

The modern child is like a pinwheel, ready to go off in a blaze of wordy fireworks the instant a spark of interest is applied to the fuse of its understanding. Like an old man in his dotage, this rag end of the nineteenth century can only mumble and prate of childish things, and the kindergarten, that incubator of little bores, is rampant. Some courageous person ought to found a Society for the Prevention of Infant Information-giving, and some one with a burden of superfluous wealth might also endow a "Refuge" for the parents and guardians who are being brought up by their children in spite of themselves. Truly "the child is father of the man"—and of the mother, too. Self-conscious through indiscriminate praise and exaggerated notice, the children up to date are the most unchildish, information-spouting little prigs in existence; if "of such are of the Kingdom of Heaven," Heaven is a good place to keep 'em out of. Do you imagine a modern child would listen to the thrilling words of the Master as did the children of old when they were sanctified by the divine blessing? Of course not! A modern child, be it scarce old enough to lisp, would have a criticism to pass upon the Perfect One, and in its eagerness to tell what it knew it would miss the words which had held the Biblical children spellbound.

We are child-culture mad. The talent of the country puts forth its finest flowers of effort for the benefit of children; parents devote time and money for the little good and the large harm which is bound to be the result of over-indulgence. A goodly harvest of dissatisfaction and discomfort is their reward. In our craze for fads—which are usually harmless enough, Heaven knows!—we ought to choose less pliable and responsive objects for the brunt of our enthusiasm. The child who is encouraged to watch the stately ships of cloud in the ocean of the sky, the child who loves the sunshine and the falling rain, the child who, in sweet meekness of heart, begs for a fairy-tale and falls asleep dreaming of bright-winged birds and magic flowers, has a better start in loveliness of disposition and understanding of this wonderful world than the sage kindergarten-bred child who can recite half a verse of anise poetry, and make paper mats and string beads until its eyes ache.—Life.

LENGTH OF THOUGHT.

How long does it take a man to think? Prof. Richet, at the recent meeting of the British association, gave the results of his investigations into this subject. He found that by mentally running up the notes of the musical scale for one or more octaves and then dividing the total time by the number of notes thought of, the time taken for each note was one eleventh of a second. There are various ways of arriving at conclusions as to the amount of time necessary for realizing any physical sensation or mental impression. If the skin be touched repeatedly with light blows from a small hammer, one may, according to Prof. Richet, distinguish the fact that the blows are separate and not continuous pressure when they follow one another as frequently as one thousand a second. The smallest intervals of sound can be much better distinguished with one ear than with both. Thus the separateness of the clicks of a revolving toothed wheel was noted by one observer when they did not exceed sixty to the second, but using both ears, he could not distinguish them when they occurred oftener than fifteen times a second. The sharp sound of an electric spark of an induction-coil was distinguished with one ear when the rate was as high as five hundred to the second. Sight is much less keen than hearing in distinguishing differences. If a disk half white and half black be revolved, it will appear gray when its revolutions exceed twenty-four a second. It has been found that we can hear far more rapidly than we can count, so that if a clock-clicking movement runs faster than ten to the second we can count four clicks, while with twenty to the second we can count two of them.—Mining and Scientific Press, San Francisco.

THE PROPER CARE OF UMBRELLAS.

Judge Dustin, in speaking of his stay in England, said, "Umbrellas are carried every day, for showers there are liable to occur at any moment."

It seems, therefore, that we cannot do better than to follow the directions of an Englishman on the proper care to take of an umbrella:

"Do not let it dry while opened, as this strains the silk and makes holes at the seams.

"Do not place it to dry with the handle up. In this case the moisture lodges in the center, where the ribs meet, causing the silk to decay.

"Never put it in the wardrobe without unrolling it, for after a long period of dry weather you may have the misfortune of finding that the continuance of the pressure has cut the silk between the ribs.

"If you are satisfied for the present with your umbrella, and are not anxious to be obliged to purchase a new one, see that it drips on end with the handle down, unless the handle is valuable and easily injured by damp. Such an umbrella cannot be cared for according to any fixed rules."—Scientific American.



Hardest things in the house to clean. Most contrary things to keep clean. Most unpleasant when not cleaned. Are made clean and kept clean easily with that enemy of oil and grease and dirt—

GOLD DUST

Washing Powder

Largest package—greatest economy.

THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY,
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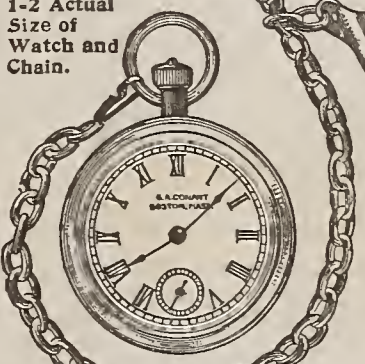
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FOR THIS TOP BUGGY If you live east of the Rocky Mountains and we will send you this high grade Top Buggy by freight C. O. D. subject to examination; you can examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you have ever heard of, pay the freight agent the balance \$31.95 and freight charges.

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We sell Top Buggies at \$23.95 and up; Road Wagons \$17.95 and up; Two Seated Surreys at \$42.00 and up. All of which are fully described and illustrated in our Free Buggy and Harness Catalogue which we mail to any address free on application.

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AT OUR SPECIAL \$33.95 PRICE we furnish this high grade, guaranteed, latest 1898 Top Buggy complete with top, full cushions, boot, storm apron, carpet, side and back curtains, wrench, anti-rattlers and shafts. For pole in place of shaft, \$2.00 extra. Send \$2.00 and we will send you the buggy, you pay the balance \$31.95 and freight after buggy is received. Only 300 buggies to go at \$33.95. DON'T DELAY; such an offer will not be made again. **FOR EVERYTHING IN Buggies, Carriages, Wagons, Harness and Saddles write for our FREE BUGGY CATALOGUE.** Don't delay, write to-day. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.)** Cheapest Supply House on Earth. Fulton, Desplaines and Wayman Streets, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

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SILVER WATCH FREE

These Watches are Solid Silver, and at retail would cost upwards of \$5.00 or \$10.00, but to introduce our Catalogue we will send you this Watch Free if you take advantage of our marvelous offer. If you want one, write to us without delay. With your letter send us 43 cents in stamps, for which we will send you a Massive Curly Pattern Albert Chain and our offer. After you receive the beautiful Watch we shall expect you to show it to your friends and call their attention to this advertisement. The Watch is sent Free, by Registered Post, on your complying with our offer. Money returned if not more than satisfied. Address at once, **SAFE WATCH CO., 7 Warren Street, New York.**

Mention this paper.

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Less than Regular Wholesale Price. To Reduce Our Enormous Stock. A rare chance to get a FIRST-CLASS WATCH at manufacturer's cost. The movement is made by one of the largest American manufacturers, finely jeweled, perfectly regulated, equal as time-keeper to the best made, and absolutely guaranteed for 5 years. The case is hunting or open face, magnificently engraved, SOLID 14K GOLD filled, 15 year guarantee with every watch. We can also give you a watch which LOOKS equally as well, with the same movement, at the price of \$2.45, but we will send you a FILLER, but Electro gold plated, and it will not wear as long as the \$4.97 watch. We send you either watch on approval, let us examine it, and if you are perfectly satisfied for the express agent our price, otherwise it is returned at once. If you want the one for \$4.97 or the one for \$2.45, whether Ladies or Gent's, also give your full name and address and the nearest express office. If a need money with order, we will on loan F. R. E. A. MAGNIFICENT CHAIN and CHARM, and guarantee absolute satisfaction. Order now, as this may not appear again. **T. F. FLETCHER CO., 298 West 24th St., Dept. A. 14 CHICAGO.**

It is cured with

SORE EYES

DR. J. A. THOMPSON'S EYE WATER

Our Household.

WHEN MOTHER DIED.

We folded tenderly those quiet hands
When mother died.
And softly smoothed the silken, silvery bands
On either side.
And as, so often, she her vigils kept,
We now sat watching while our mother slept
That eventide.

We rained caresses on that placid brow
When mother died.
And kissed the lips that never until now
Our own denied.
We talked of patience and of all her care,
And grew regretful as our own small share
Shrank down beside.

We idly moaned, "Were she but back again,
Our hearth beside,
How much unhappiness, how much of pain
We'd scatter wide!"
How lovingly—ah, me, that it is ever so!
How gleam our jewels as we watch them go
Adown the tide!

Why speak we not to longing, listening ears,
So close beside,
The love that brokenly, above their biers,
We all have cried!
Why to so many must that cry of fate
Come drifting earthward with "Late, too late!
Thou art denied?"

Go clasp thy mother in thy strong, young arms,
Dear boy—her pride!
Cast from thy life each folly that alarms,
That truest guide!
Know that her prayers, her love, thy mother's
Faith in thee,
Thy glory is! A richer legacy
Than aught beside!

—Midland Monthly.

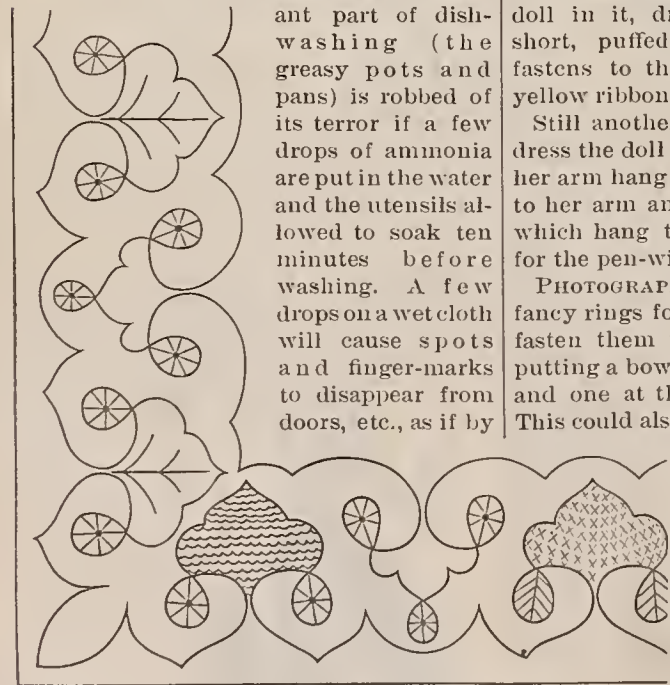
HOME TOPICS.

RED SPIDER.—I never was troubled with red spiders on my house-plants until this winter. I have three pots of carnations which in the fall and early winter looked very healthy, and I flattered myself they would soon bloom; but a few weeks ago I noticed they did not look as well, and some of the new shoots which I had expected to give me blossoms were drying up. A rose also began to drop its leaves, and on examining them closely I found not only webs, but the tiny red insect which was doing the mischief.

I had the infested plants carried to the kitchen, made a strong suds with good soap, tied a cloth over the top of each pot to keep the dirt in, and then dipped the plant into the suds, and with my hand washed it, then rinsed it in clear water, and have seen no spiders since; but I sprinkle the foliage daily, now, as that is said to prevent the coming of this pest. It was only the plants in my sitting-room window that suffered. I suppose, the air was too dry and hot, as that condition is said to be favorable to red spiders. The plants I have kept in an upper hall, in a south dormer-window, have grown and blossomed well.

AMMONIA.—I do not think of any other simple thing that is such a friend to the housewife as ammonia. It is cheaper than soap, cleaner and more efficacious in washing dishes, sinks, woodwork or windows.

The most unpleasant part of dish-washing (the greasy pots and pans) is robbed of its terror if a few drops of ammonia are put in the water and the utensils allowed to soak ten minutes before washing. A few drops on a wet cloth will cause spots and finger-marks to disappear from doors, etc., as if by



magic. Soiled laces are easily cleaned without rubbing if soaked a little while in water containing a few drops of ammonia; after using this water it is an excellent fertilizer to use for house-plants, or for flowers growing in the ground in the summer.

BABY'S WARDROBE.—In a letter from a

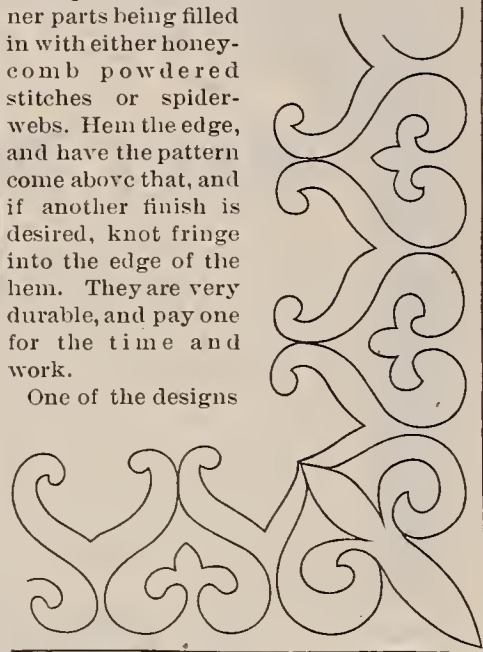
reader of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, the writer asks where she can get infants' wardrobe patterns. In answer I would tell her that Mrs. C. G. Atsma has advertised these patterns in the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION during the last two years, offering to send twenty-six articles, with full directions for making, for twenty-five cents. She also says she will send free with each order a pamphlet, "Knowledge for Expectant Mothers," and a copy of her paper, "True Motherhood." Personally, I know nothing of her patterns, but I believe the advertisement to be all right, or the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION would not have given it place for so long a time.

MAIDA McL.

TABLE-COVERS, ETC.

The colored linens now brought to our art stores are used for many decorative purposes, among them table-covers. Owing to their being easily laundered and of a durable character they are embroidered in heavy white linen thread, in coronation braid, put on to outline a pattern, the inner parts being filled in with either honey-comb powdered stitches or spider-webs. Hem the edge, and have the pattern come above that, and if another finish is desired, knot fringe into the edge of the hem. They are very durable, and pay one for the time and work.

One of the designs



was outlined in red coronation, and the lace stitches done in red silk, using green linen for the cover itself.

TOOTH-BRUSH HOLDER.—Take a piece of linen about five inches long and three inches wide; line with oil-silk. This is very convenient to use when traveling. If a decoration is desired, you might mark, in some fancy letters that could be easily outlined:

"I give a luster of pearls
To the teeth of the girls."

Bind the edge neatly with a white linen braid sewed upon the machine. Fasten with tiny pearl buttons and loops.

DOLL-HEAD PEN-WIPERS.—Get three dolls with muslin bodies, having bisque heads and arms; remove the legs at the body, then make a full dress of ribbon frayed at one end, slip over the head and gather at the neck; put in small lace sleeves, and cross a kerchief over the breast. Have leaves of felt for the pen-wiper.

Another is made the same way, only take yellow felt, make a sunflower, and place the doll in it, dressed with a green waist, short, puffed sleeves, full skirt, which fastens to the sunflower, and a belt of yellow ribbon.

Still another: Get a tiny rocking-chair, dress the doll as a widow, cap and all. On her arm hang a little bag, fastened tightly to her arm and the arm of the chair, from which hang the flannel or chamois leaves for the pen-wiper.

PHOTOGRAPH-FRAME.—Get a string of fancy rings for holding photographs, and fasten them to a wide, rich red ribbon, putting a bow at the top left-hand corner and one at the lower right-hand corner. This could also hold cards, if one wished to keep them, but is especially adapted to small pictures. BELLE KING.

FLORAL TAPE-MEASURE.

For material, take one yard of satin ribbon No. 4. The spaces for each season are marked with small

flowers which belong to that season: Spring, arbutus; summer, forget-me-nots; autumn, goldenrod; winter, holly. The ivory points to hold it can be purchased at any art store. It can be done either in water-colors or pen and ink. If you find it difficult to get the points, use brass rings covered with silk crocheting. K.

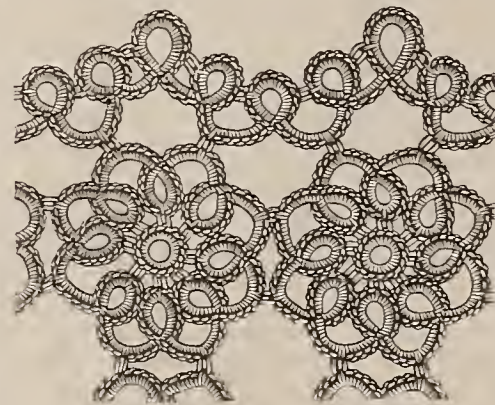
LIFE'S FAILURES.

"My life has been such a failure," she said. "When a girl I had such high hopes. With my voice I expected to entrance waiting audiences, winning fame and fortune. Then the fever came, and I could no longer sing."

"If I could not sing, I could speak, so I decided to enter the lecture field, hoping in this way to reach many souls and help them to a better, higher life. But as you know, that, too, was a failure, from the injury done to my spine by a runaway. Then I thought I could reach the hearts of people through the press, and even yet my work might be done. But no! Both eyes and hands seemed to be affected by the spinal trouble, so that while I could usually attend to ordinary home duties, I could not write, excepting a little now and then. I have done the best I could, yet life seems nothing to me but a failure."

Only a failure! How sad to think of it! Yet God, who does not count failures as you and I do, did not, I am sure, so consider that life. 'Tis true, she had not accomplished the things that her ambition had desired—the things that in her estimation would have made life a grand success—but there are other occupations equally as praiseworthy as these.

She had "looked well to the ways of her household," and from her home had ever come that sweet spirit which can only be imparted by a consecrated soul. Her children had never lacked for true mother-love, and had matured into noble manhood and womanhood, such as would have been impossible had she devoted her life to music or the lecture platform, as she had so much desired to do; and for that reason alone, if for no other, her life was not a failure, but a grand success. As she said, she had done the best she could, and no life can be a failure that is molded on that plan. We cannot always see the harvest of our seed-sowing, but God, who noteth even the sparrow's fall, has care for all these things, and he can see the suc-



cesses in our lives whether we consider it so or not.

Although to this woman her life had seemed hedged up and shut in, had it not been done so by an Omnipotent Providence, who knoweth our needs and abilities far better than we—one who "considereth our frame" and knoweth we "are but dust?" Then who can gainsay this ruling or count any life a failure that is given to him and humbly tries to follow his leadings?

Although she may not have realized it, more than one heart had been reached, more than one soul succored by her beautiful home influence and earnest teachings at Sabbath-school and elsewhere. Could she have accomplished from the platform, appearing before an audience but once, then going on again, even though she spoke to thousands of people, the same good that her quiet teachings, Sunday after Sunday, did for her class at home?

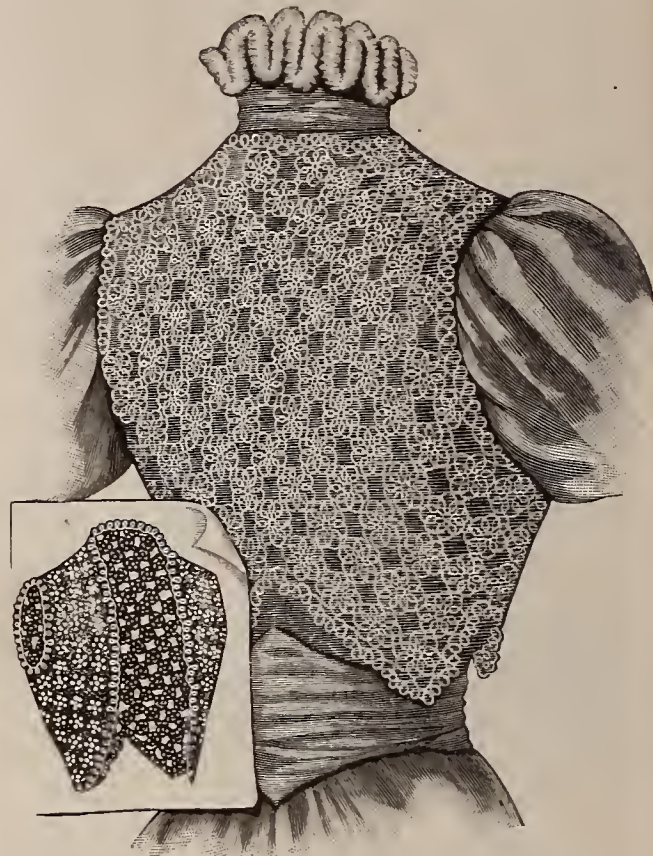
Only such lives are failures, not being able to accomplish the things for which their ambition longs, as do not resolutely turn to the work nearest them and do with their might whatever their hands find to do, but closing eyes and ears to the work within reach, spend their days in sighing for the unattainable. Such lives, and such only, are failures.

"Ah, if our souls but poise and swing
Like the compass in its brazen ring,
Ever level and ever true
To the toil and task we have to do,
We shall sail securely, and safely reach
The fortunate isles on whose shining beach
The sights we see; and the sounds we hear
Will be those of joy, and not of fear."

CLARA SENSIBAUGH EVERTS.

ETON JACKET IN TATTING.

A pattern cut to fit neatly must first be prepared. The tatting wheels can be made



in strips, as shown in the illustration, and fitted nicely to the figure. It is all made with two shuttles, and can be of silk thread, if preferred. It is very effective over velvet. B. K.

WHAT THE BOUGHS SAID.

Last night, as I strode down the frozen road,
That the elm-trees bower in spring,
'Mong the boughs that stirred I thought I heard
A jubilant whispering.

"They are happy there in the frosty air,"
I said, as I sped away,
"For I haven't a doubt they are chatting about
The gowns they will don in May."
—Clinton Scollard.

WALL-PAPERS, NEW AND OLD.

In our ever-changing American life it is seldom that the furnishings and wall-papers correspond, unless in the later home of the very wealthy. The styles of papers have undergone a material change. Where once a tiny vine or rose scattered here and there over a delicate ground, touched up in places with gold, seemed beautiful, indeed, now the rich effects make it seem almost a tapestry. The beautiful empire designs seem pictures of themselves.

The newest thing, called parchment, in solid colors only, are very rich in their effect, and certainly ought to be at prices from \$10 to \$80 a roll, and tapestry designs at from \$20 to \$100.

Borders have given way to a neat molding corresponding in color and design to the woodwork, and are fastened to the ceiling. In the newer houses the ceilings are being painted in soft tints, never papered.

The inexpensive papers are beautiful, also, in all the new designs. Some expressly for nursery and children's rooms are so delightful, covered with pictures



from "Mother Goose," "Jack and the Bean Stalk," "Red Riding Hood," etc., as to make one wish to be a child again and live over all the delightful days.

When repapering, all the old should be removed. Many of the new styles are much better in texture at a correspondingly low price than ever before offered. B. K.

"BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES" are of great service in subduing Hoarseness and Coughs. Sold only in boxes. Avoid imitations.

Our Household.

I'M GROWING OLD.

My days pass pleasantly away;
My nights are blessed with sweetest sleep;
I feel no symptoms of decay,
I have no cause to mourn or weep;
My foes are impotent and shy,
My friends are neither false nor cold;
And yet, of late, I often sigh—
I'm growing old!

My growing talk of olden times,
My growing thirst for early news,
My growing apathy to rhymes,
My growing love of easy shoes,
My growing hate of crowds and noise,
My growing fear of taking cold,
All whisper in the plainest voice,
I'm growing old!

I'm growing fonder of my staff;
I'm growing dimmer in the eyes;
I'm growing fainter in my laugh;
I'm growing deeper in my sighs;
I'm growing careless in my dress;
I'm growing frugal of my gold;
I'm growing wise; I'm growing—yes—
I'm growing old!

I see it in my changing taste;
I see it in my changing hair;
I see it in my growing waist;
I see it in my growing hair;
A thousand signs proclaim the truth,
As plain as truth were ever told,
That even in my vaulted youth
I'm growing old!

Ah, me! my very laurels breathe
The tale in my reluctant ears,
And every boon the hours bequeath,
But makes me debtor to the years!
E'en flattery's honeyed words declare
The secret she would fain withhold,
And tells me in "How young you are!"
I'm growing old!

Thanks for the years, whose rapid flight
My somber music too sadly sings;
Thanks for the gleams of golden light
That tint the darkness of their wings;
The light that beams from out the sky,
Those heavenly mansions to unfold,
Where all the best, and none may sigh
I'm growing old!

—John G. Saxe.

WHO SHOULD DO THE RUNNING?

WHY is it so many children seem to be literally possessed with the idea that whenever they wish their mother's attention, instead of going to her, they will, nine times out of ten, sit still and call to the mother to come to them? She may be ever so busily engaged, it matters not; they demand her presence at once in the most summary manner. If she is in a distant room, the call of "Ma, ma!" is kept up until she answers the call, only to answer some trivial question which is scarcely worth noticing, let alone having to quit work to listen to.

I am well acquainted with one family where every member, big and little, never hesitate to call their mother to them, instead of going to her, whenever they wish her presence to settle a dispute or show her a picture they have drawn on a slate, or to pronounce a word in the story-book they are reading. The never tired (?) mother is supposed to be the one who should do the exercising. The father is just the same. If he desires his wife's presence he calls, "Say," to which she instantly responds, evidently forgetting that she ever had a Christian name, as the ease-loving head of the house will not even go to the exertion of calling her by it.

A man may be tired when he comes in from work, and is sometimes excusable for such actions, but he should remember that his wife is probably quite as tired as he is; and moreover, it savors greatly of the heathenish customs supposed to be out of date, while the example he thus sets for the children could not be worse, as they usually consider it very manly to imitate father in everything.

No wonder so many women break down. They are nothing but machines, supposed to always be in running order, never tired of their work, no matter how disagreeable. Merely because they do it patiently and uncomplainingly, it is nevertheless a hard task to perform, and one about which no one but a wife and mother can have any idea.

It is nothing more than right for a father to teach his children, both by precept and example, that their mother is entitled to some consideration. It would look much better if they would try to remember the care they needed when helpless babies, and see how much they could do in their youthful strength and activity to save that

weary, care-burdened mother extra steps, instead of adding to them. Mothers, that is, the most of them, never think anything too hard which they are called upon to perform for their beloved children, and thus the habit of waiting on them is formed, which causes the selfish exaction of children.

It is, I presume, more from thoughtlessness than real carelessness; but the day will come when the weary burden will be lifted from your mother's shoulders, and she will take the rest she never got here, leaving you with the memory of things you might have done, of duties neglected, of promises made and broken, of resolutions no sooner made than forgotten, all of which helped to shorten the life, perhaps, of the dearest, truest friend you will ever know. Children, try to remember this while your mothers are still with you.

A. M. M.

CIGARETTES.

The evil influences thrown around our growing boys is something to make every young mother shudder, when she knows she must fight so many battles for him until his feet are planted firmly on the safe side.

Every inducement that can be used is resorted to in the sale of cigarettes, and when in some localities means have been taken to prevent the sale of them to very young boys, they have been given away as the prize to the sale of something else; for instance, the buttons, with all sorts of devices upon them—flags, mottoes and the like.

There can be no surer method of undermining the health of the coming men of this fair United States than the use of these vile articles by boys from seven to sixteen. The very fact of their cheapness and diminutiveness places them at the disposal of every one.

Much is being done all over the world to prevent the increase of alcoholic indulgence, but it seems to me the insinuating evil of the use of cigarettes is far more gigantic and much more to be dreaded.

Our country generally is waking up to the importance of athletics and all sorts of health-giving devices. Our girls to-day are a fine sample of outdoor sports—health dressing and health protection. What girl do you see, now, with paper-soled shoes, such as our mothers wore? How many do you see on the street, now, with low-necked and short-sleeved dresses, as was the style in the '40's? All sorts of reforms in dress are followed with favor by our women. If, then, they use care to be the well-developed, healthy mothers of the next generation, why should not our boys be equally healthy to take their places?

So many of our young men go into decline between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five. If their health is undermined from the age of fifteen on, by the use of cigarettes, what can we expect? Too much stress is laid upon the fact of girls preparing for maternity, and very little upon the subject of paternity.

The use of narcotics is a subject that fills any deep-thinking person with alarm as to its effect upon heart and brain. Mothers everywhere should enter upon a crusade against it. After a man has reached development he can tamper with tobacco, perhaps, without so much danger. But our little boys—our growing boys—have no business with it at all. The love of health should be cultivated so that they would not care to undermine and throw away such a gift.

What can we do to stay the wide-spreading evil?
LOUISE LONG CHRISTIE.

SHIRT-WAISTS.

That the shirt-waist has come to stay is indisputable. Anything so comfortable, clean and stylish is too good to give up. It gives a woman a dainty and fresh appearance that no other made-up waist can give.

The style of make-up for the coming season differs very little from last season. The yoke, in one piece, that comes over a little on the front is a favorite still, and the moderate coat-sleeve, like last year, remains. Collars and cuffs are on the waist of the cheaper material, and with others white collars are worn. The cuffs of some have a small turn-over with rounded edges. Fronts are tucked lengthwise to form the front yoke and fullness in very tiny tucks close together.

The materials are loud. All sorts and kinds of plaids and combination of plaids appear, and deep colors are among many of the best lines. White ones will be

especial favorites, and many are made of pique as well as thin materials; the latter, though, was not much of a favorite last year, as it entailed too much under dressing that conflicted with the comfort of the waist.

A special feature this year will be to use the large plaids in bias fronts. Those appearing early in the season will be of heavier material, the thinner fabrics being held for later in the season. During the last months the reproduction of "cross-bar" muslin, an old-time fabric, will be used very largely. Upon the thinner materials a great deal of embroidery and lace will be used. A simple band or two of insertion across the yokes and fronts of ducks and piques will be sufficient. Tucked yokes will be much used, running either diagonally, vertically or across.

Some of the softer materials will assume the Russian blouse style, and will be finished at the side with ruffles of embroidery. A pattern having an under-arm gore will be a favorite. Batistes in colors will be combined with colored embroideries and bands of Russian embroidery in colors.

A variety of waists in plain-colored thin material have yokes, front plaits and cuffs of Irish-point embroidery. Cerise embroidery combines well with a black batiste.

With assurity on the styles, one can go ahead during the winter months and accomplish the season's sewing in time to be ready for it. Many merchants bring on these materials early to accommodate. It is well to be forehanded in the matter of outfits for the family, as we can all testify to the inconvenience of sewing in hot weather.

CHRISTIE IRVING.

HELPS FOR IRONING DAY.

First, dress comfortably. A loose and thinner waist than usually worn is of much advantage in keeping cool. When the work is completed, don the usual apparel, and the chilly, uncomfortable feeling, so common after a day's ironing, may be avoided.

If there is a big day's work, have an old cushion upon which to stand. No one knows how much it will rest the tired feet unless they have tried it.

The irons should be as clean and smooth as lye and water can make them. The board should be covered with a cloth in which there are no seams or patches, as these make shiny streaks or creases in any garment pressed over them, which is especially undesirable in fine linens or wool goods. An old flannel sheet is a very nice covering to tack to the board, and a light cotton one for a removable cover, as it can be washed easily.

A piece of beeswax tied up in a rag, to rub quickly over the bottom of the hot flat-iron, will keep it smooth, and the iron will glide over the clothes much more readily, especially if they are starched ones.

In pressing any goods or clothes where it is customary to place a cloth over them before ironing, use a newspaper instead; it gives a gloss to ribbon or silk, leaves no lint, stiffens cambric, if it be slightly dampened, and when scorched, can be thrown away at no loss and a fresh one procured.

If seams are pressed over a broomstick or any rounded edge, with care in keeping them straight, there will be no shining streak to mark their length, as is often the case when the pressing is done upon a flat surface, as nothing can strike the wood but the point of the seam.

If there is velvet to press, heat a soapstone quite hot, cover with a damp cloth, lay it on the velvet with the right side up, and brush lightly and quickly with a clothes-brush until the surface is as smooth and velvety as when new. As the damp cloth over the stone becomes dry, it must be wet again, as it is the steam, with the brushing, which lifts up the tiny threads and restores the beauty of the velvety surface.

A bosom-board for fine shirts should be very smooth and but thinly covered; some advise a marble slab, but we cannot all afford that.

Work that is so very particular is now usually taken to a regular laundry. Blessings, indeed, they are to the tired mother, who has all the work she is able to do without the fine shirts so necessary to the masculine element in the household.

GYPSY.

The Incubators and Brooders manufactured by G. S. Singer, Cardington, Ohio, are well known in poultry circles. Mr. Singer is also an extensive poultry breeder, and believes he has provided for the wants of poultrymen generally. He is a regular advertiser in the Farm and Fireside, and we would advise all who are interested to send for his complete catalogue.

Enameline



The Modern STOVE POLISH.

DUSTLESS, ODORLESS,
BRILLIANT, LABOR SAVING.
Try it on your Cycle Chain.
J. L. PRESCOTT & CO., New York.



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A complete business education including all requisite branches taught by mail. Broad in scope, complete in detail, accurate and reliable in every respect. This course of instruction is indispensable to the young man or woman seeking success in the business world.

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to wash as clean as can be done on the washboard, even to the wristbands and collar of the dirtiest shirt, and with much more ease. This applies to Terriff's Perfect Washer, which will be sent on trial at wholesale price. If not satisfactory, money will be refunded. Agents wanted. For exclusive territory, terms & prices, write Portland Mfg. Co., Box 4, Portland, Mich.

TRY IT FREE

for 30 days in your own home and save \$10 to \$25. No money in advance. \$60 Kenwood Machine for \$23.00 \$50 Arlington Machine for \$13.50 Singers (Made by us) \$8, \$11.50, \$15 and 27 other styles. All attachments FREE. We pay freight. Buy from factory. Save agents large profits. Over 100,000 in use. Catalogue and testimonials free. Write at once. Address (in full), GASH BUYERS' UNION, 158-164 West Van Buren St., B-7, Chicago, Ill.

THROW AWAY YOUR HAT PINS



The Ideal Hat Fastener

is a perfect device for holding the hat on the head without a pin, no matter how hard the wind blows. Just the thing for eyeists, in fact every lady, young or old. Price 25 cents, by mail. Agents wanted. Ideal Fastener Co., 280 1/2 Dearborn St., Chicago.

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Can buy a WORLD'S WASHER on trial and no money paid until it is perfectly satisfactory. Washes easy. Clothes clean, sweet and white as snow. Child can use it. I pay freight. Circulars free. C. E. ROSS, 10 Clean St., Lincoln, Ill.

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK

Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 1-2 dozen Packages of Blaine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Blaine post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required. BLAINE CO., Box 114, CONCORD JUNCTION, MASS.

You Dye in 30 minutes
Turkey Red on Cotton or Wool that won't freeze, boil or wash out. Carpets, Dresses and clothing made to look like new, no experience necessary with French Dye. To introduce them send 4c. for 6 packages or 10c. for one any color. Big pay agents. FRENCH DYE CO., Box 310, VASSAL, MICH.

OUR GIANT ALMANAC Farm and Fireside's Giant Almanac and Annual Reference Book (450 pages) is now ready for delivery. It will be an absolutely reliable authority on political, agricultural, commercial, financial, educational, religious and miscellaneous subjects and statistics in general. Price, with Farm and Fireside one year, 50 cents. Send orders now. First come, first served.

Our Household.

WINTER MORNING-GLORIES.

WHEN the ripening seeds of my morning-glory vines were dropping to the ground last August, the thought occurred to me that on cold wintry mornings when the wind whistles and the snow flies, a morning-glory vine covered with blossoms would be a cheerful and inspiring sight. I had never heard of one at that season of the year, but all the more anxious was I to make the experiment. So I planted some of the seed in a pot, and a few days thereafter had the pleasure of seeing the tiny shoots—every one of them—above the ground. When they were a few inches high and had begun to put forth dainty green leaves, I had a frame made for them to run upon—only a narrow stick about three feet high, with two cross pieces.

I dared not hope they would outstrip its dimensions, but when, in the warm, encouraging sunlight of "mild September," they began to climb higher and higher—threatening to rival Jack's bean-stalk of "Mother Goose" lore, my own hopes climbed too, and all my winter air-castles were filled with morning-glories.

But alas! the frosts came, and with the other plants they were brought within doors, and although the pleasantest corner of a south window was assigned to them, it became very soon evident that the vines would not fulfill their early promise. I come down now in the November mornings to find two or three pale flowers awaiting me—miniature "glories" about as large as a quarter of a dollar—and I realize that though the frail little vines have done their best, I must look beyond the flora kingdom for my winter morning-glories. Yet they should not be hard to find, after all, for there is a glory of the morning outside, and independent of flowers and birds and soft air—one that is born of cheerfulness.

A smile, a kindly greeting, with a note of sympathy in it, will often make a dark day bright and a sad heart happy; but thrice blessed are these, if they come in the morning. We set our feet upon the threshold of a new day, and already, in spirit, its toils and care are upon us. We have not forgotten the "little worries" of yesterday, while the possible ones of to-day we anticipate, and so we meet one another around the breakfast-table with clouded brows; our greetings, if we exchange these at all, are in nervous or fretful tones, and in such a home atmosphere the morning-glories will not open.

Why not take each day on trust? Give it, at least, the benefit of the doubt, and let in the sunshine early—the sunshine of cheerfulness. Let it flood the house; then will the flowers blossom—cheerful looks, kind words, helpful deeds, and we shall have morning-glories the year round.

LILLA A. WHITNEY.

SOAP.

There is considerable carelessness displayed even among people of refinement in the use of toilet soap. Any kind will do, so long as it is sweet-smelling and makes a good lather, and is inexpensive.

A good soap brings a legitimately good price—a price well worth paying in view of the great benefit to the skin, not to mention the length of time it lasts in comparison with a cheaper soap.

So many people are troubled with little affections of the skin, not painful nor serious, but very unpleasant to look at, and which detract not a little from the general appearance. Often this trouble arises from the condition of the stomach, but quite as often from poor soap, or soap not suited nor beneficial to the skin of the individual in question.

All good soaps even are not suited to the skins of all people. One should experiment, to a certain extent, before making a permanent choice. Try, for instance, a cake of any of the well-known soaps—sulphur, cuticura, tar, facial, glycerin, oatmeal, cucumber, etc., etc.—and when you find one which proves its value by the improved condition of your skin, make it a point to use that kind of soap always, and you will be well rewarded by a freshness of complexion and a sweetness of skin quite unattainable when using the cheaper, poorer grades of soap. EMMA LOUISE HATCK.

Jayne's Expectorant cured me of a cough of a very severe nature, after all the doctors had failed.—THOMAS McGUIRE, Wellston, Ohio, Oct. 29, 1895.

They set the system right—Jayne's Sanative Pills.

FIDGETY PEOPLE.

Of all things, boys and girls, learn to be still; to sit still, to stand still, to appear at ease; to be able to sit with quietly folded hands for an hour, if need be, and not give every person the impression that you are struggling with an attack of St. Vitus' dance. Some people are constantly moving their feet or thumping their fingers on tables, chair-arms, etc., to the time of some tune, that for the time seems to render them oblivious to their surroundings; others whisk their pocket handkerchief, snapping it at an imaginary fly, or perhaps at some unlucky individual who chances to come within range of their long arms. I tremble when such a one turns his attention to my magazines or papers. He seizes the very latest, whisks the leaves over, glances at a picture, then deliberately rolling it up, peeps through it, whistles through it, hits it on his knee, driving it through his fingers; repeating this until the thought occurs to him that he might, if he kept on trying, roll it tighter than before; then he goes through the whole process again, talking and working. Once, to save a dearly beloved magazine, I drew the attention of one of these busy people to a large album that lay near on a table. He took the album, flipped the leaves over hastily, then poising the book on one point, with a hand on each side, began whirling that heavy album over and over, while I watched every motion with dizzy apprehension, like one fascinated. The dread of seeing my cherished album bereft of its cover, a wreck on the floor, finally broke the spell, and in desperation I grabbed a mammoth catalogue from some Chicago house, and managed to get him to exchange playthings, and hastily put everything for which I had any regard out of reach. The catalogue answered every purpose, and as it was stout and used to being handled, I think readily enjoyed it. I did, at any rate. I have noticed others, when talking, keep their fingers busily roving over their chair-arms or around the seat, seemingly in search of a loosened tack or a bit of fringe that had a break in it, then work away as if they had taken a contract to see how soon they could get that piece of furniture fit for the upholsterer—I almost said the undertaker (there are times when one could send for the latter with unbecoming cheerfulness).

But to resume: A great many girls are as bad as boys in this respect. A piece of jewelry, a watch-chain, a pencil, anything, no matter what, so it is something to pick at, to flip, to chew, biting their finger-nails, if nothing else comes in reach of those restless hands. They constantly remind you of perpetual motion, and it is a wonder that some keen-sighted, inventive genius has not made a fortune taking such a one as a model from which to make a machine that would "keep on" forever. I used to be acquainted with a young lady, who, besides being very beautiful, had the delightful charm of quietness. She often reminded me of a marble statue, as with her white hands folded in her lap, and her heavily lashed eyelids brushing her cheek, she would sit so motionless—it rested one to even look at her. She was as lively as any one when liveliness was desirable, but at other times had the most perfect control of her hands, and; in fact, her whole body, of any one I ever knew. So, my dear girls, take notice of yourselves and your acquaintances. Notice how the fidgety, restless ones compare with those whose ease of manner shows a cultivation worthy of imitation. Practice the art of being still for ten minutes at a time, at least once a day, increasing the dose, as the physicians say, as you become accustomed to it, and in time I am quite sure you will feel that you have learned at least one desirable accomplishment—the art of keeping still.

A. M. MARRIOTT.

S. S. S. S. S. S.

These mysterious letters headed an advertisement which was published in the local newspaper in a stirring, western town.

The import of the notice was that there was to be L. O. F. and an abundance to eat at the home of the president of the Ladies' Aid Society, on the eve of G. W.'s B., and that all were most cordially invited to come and bring their dimes, fifteen cents and thinking-caps. At the lower left-hand corner of the advertisement again occurred some initials, S. S. S. and a huge question-mark at the end.

Everybody, and all their relations, came out to see what these ladies were proposing to do on Washington's birthday.

At the door they were given their choice, either to "look on" merely, and partake of

the light refreshments, or to take part in the initial guessing game. You may be certain that the majority paid their fifteen cents, and determined to see what the game was.

Each one was accordingly handed a sheet of paper and pencil, and told to enter the contest.

After much talking, laughing and speculating, a tiny silver bell was rung, and silence reigned.

A young lady standing in their midst said, in a loud, clear voice: "Write what you think the seven S's at the head of our advertisement stand for. Also the three at the close. No fair looking on," said she, laughing, as she saw one young lady peeping over another's shoulder.

At the expiration of three minutes she said: "Write your name in full there; now just your initials." Then said she, "These initials only must be used to answer the following questions; that is, the questions must begin with those letters."

I had written my full name, Ruby Luella Bartlett Simmons, and found it rather hard to answer the first question, "Where do you live?" with R. L. B. S. But finally grinned at my wit (?), and wrote "Right 'Long Beside Sunday Meeting House." For what is a church but a Sunday meeting house?

And thus on through the list I must confess I could not be so truthful in the remaining answers as in the first.

What do you eat? What hobby do you ride? Who is your favorite historian? What do you think of DeWitt Talmage? What of yourself? Wherein does your chief excellency lie? What is your chief fault? Whom would you prefer being if not yourself? Why?

Then last, but not least, came the command to write a verse of poetry, using these ill-fated initials. I certainly labored long, and the crowd laughed loud, when my effusion was read, as follows:

"Ring, silver bell,
Let the music swell;
Bring many a penny when
Sewing Society needs any."

The preacher was selected to read the lists, and peals of laughter reverberated through the house as the reading proceeded.

"Sewing Society's Select Social. Sandwiches Served," was found to be the translation of the heading, and "Serious Subjects Slaughtered," the end of the advertisement. "Lots of Fun" they surely found.

Upon leaving, many of the guests said to the president, "I never had so much fun in all my life." The more sedate remarked, "We have certainly spent a very pleasant evening."

A hostess could entertain her invited guests in this manner: As the guests enter they could be handed dainty cards (bearing their respective initials), to which a pencil was attached with a piece of delicate baby ribbon. And as is customary in all such proceedings, the first and booby prize might be assigned.

But for a church social it is par excellent, because it requires no especial "working up" beforehand, nor do the refreshments need to be elaborate. It will certainly be voted a success, although the work be but little.

E. B. SIMMONS.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

A successful palm-grower says he has found that these plants thrive best when they are often treated to a milk-and-water sponge bath instead of one of clear water. The leaves then are not so likely to become defaced by withered brown spots, but will keep glossy and fresh.

When preparing sandwiches for a large company they frequently have to be made a number of hours before they are needed. If a napkin is rinsed in hot water and wrapped around the sandwiches, which should then be put in a cool place, when used they will be found as fresh as if just made.

Often when most needed it is found impossible to heat an oven in sufficient time for baking potatoes for the early breakfast. If the potatoes are first boiled from ten to fifteen minutes, then taken from the water and put into the heated oven, they can be quickly finished, and are as good as when all the cooking is done in the oven.

The odor from the heating of a new iron vessel is very unpleasant, and it may be avoided in this manner: Place the kettle in the yard at a safe distance from anything inflammable, and put into it a cloth saturated with kerosene; drop a lighted match upon the cloth and let the oil burn out. When the kettle is again cold wash it in a hot solution of strong soda-water. After this treatment the vessel may be used in the house without any disagreeable odor.

FIBROID TUMOR

Expelled by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Interview With Mrs. B. A. Lombard.

I have reason to think that I would not be here now if it had not been for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It cured me of a fibroid tumor in my womb.

Doctors could do nothing for me, and they could not cure me at the hospital. I will tell you about it:

I had been in my usual health, but had worked quite hard. When my monthly period came on, I flowed very badly. The doctor gave me medicine, but it did me no good. He said the flow must be stopped if possible, and he must find the cause of my trouble.

Upon examination, he found there was a Fibroid Tumor in my womb, and gave me treatment without any benefit whatever. About that time a lady called on me, and recommended Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, said she owed her life to it. I said I would try it, and did. Soon after the flow became more natural and regular. I still continued taking the Compound for some time. Then the doctor made an examination again, and found everything all right. The tumor had passed away and that dull ache was gone.—MRS. B. A. LOMBARD, Box 71, Westdale, Mass.

Spare Time

You have it; you wish to spend it profitably. We give you work in your home neighborhood for your spare time.

For selling 2 books or 1 bible we give you a fine Nickel Watch or Clock.
" 5 " " 2 bibles we give you a Silver Watch or Pocket Clock.
" 8 " " 3 bibles we give you a Camera or Porcelain Clock.
" 10 " " 4 bibles we give you Gold Watch, Mandolin or Guitar.
" 18 " " 6 bibles we give you a fine Solid Gold Watch.
" 25 " " 8 bibles we give you a \$50.00 Camera.
" 35 " " 10 bibles we give you a High-grade Bicycle.
" 45 " " 12 bibles we give you a \$75.00 Typewriter.
" 55 " " 15 bibles we give you a \$125.00 Chainless Bicycle.

Each book or article the VERY BEST of its class. Books popular and low priced. If you prefer Dictionary, Encyclopedia, Set of Standard Works, Solid Silver Tableware, Opera Glass, Diamond Rings, Musical Instruments or other articles, we supply them for a few hours work. Mention choice and Write us to-day for full particulars.

LYONS BROTHERS & CO., 5th and Race, CINCINNATI, O.

TO INTRODUCE \$100

Our new 3 models early we will, for the next 30 days ship, a sample wheel, C. O. D. to any address, upon receipt of \$1.00. We offer splendid chance to a good agent in each town. You have choice of Cash, the FREE USE of a sample wheel, or Outright Gift of one or more wheels, according to nature of work done for us.

INTRODUCTION PRICES.
SIBERIAN 11-4 in. tubing, 2 pc. cranks & W. tire \$ 29.
COSSACK 11-8 in. tubing, 2 pc. cranks, Morgan & Wright tires \$ 24.
KLONDIKE 11-8 in. tubing, 3 pc. cranks, New Brunswick tires \$ 19.

Any color, style, gear, height frame wanted.
27 and 90 Models variations makes end styles \$12 to \$16
Wheels, slightly used, modern types, \$8 to \$16
ART CATALOGUE FREE. SECURE AGENCY AT ONCE.
E. F. MEAD CYCLE CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE MERIT.

The Rocker Washer

has proved the most satisfactory of any Washer ever placed upon the market. It is warranted to wash an ordinary family washing of 100 PIECES IN ONE HOUR, as clean as can be washed on the washboard. Write for prices and full description.

ROCKER WASHER CO.
FT. WAYNE, IND.
Liberal inducements to live agents.

ENJOY TURKISH BATHS AT HOME

3 cts. EACH. Also Vapor Baths, Sulphur, Perfumed or Medicated. Write for interesting Book. Free. Water Baths cleanse the outer skin only. Our method far superior. Cleanses, Purifies, Invigorates entire system. Prevents disease. Use our Quaker Bath Cabinet. Best, cheapest for family use. Costs Nothing to Try It. Over \$1,000 happy users. Produces health, strength, vigor. Beautifies complexion. Cures colds, rheumatism, obesity, la grippe, etc., all blood, skin, nervous and kidney troubles. Excellent for female ills.

AGENTS WANTED, Men and Women. \$100 a Month and Expenses. Write us. F. WORLD MFG. CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

PLEASE TRY

Cascarets

CANDY CATHARTIC

REGULATE THE LIVER

10c. 25c. 50c. All Druggists, etc.

INDIANOLA

ALL-LEATHER SUSPENDER

Are worn by a million men who know they are self-adjusting, never pull buttons and won't wear out. Try the stores, or send 25 cents in stamps for sample pair in plain leather, or 50 cents for cushion back leather.

Patent applied for.

Indianola Suspenders Co. 173 S. Canal St. Chicago

KLONDIKE AT HOME

Agents selling money saving New Improved Bath Cabinet, patented. Rubber lined, germ proof, perfect, sanitary. Not a cloak or bag but supported by a folding galvanized steel frame. Turkish, Russian and medicated baths at home. Cures Rheumatism, leprosy, Rickets, Neuritis, Pains in the back, all skin, liver and kidney diseases, beautifies the complexion. Formulas for medicated baths furnished with cabinets. Relies at sight. Write for sample cloth, book & terms. Agents Wanted.

DR. MOLLERKOPF & McCREERY, Toledo, O.

WOMEN Make \$2 to \$10 a Day selling our Mackintosh Dress Skirts, new dress shields, etc. Cat. Free. Ladies' Supply Co., 3115 Forest Ave., Chicago

NOXALL SELF-HEATING IRON. Woman's friend. Safe, durable, cheap. Particulars free. JOHNSTON & CO., QUINCY, ILL.

Our Sunday Afternoon.

DON'T FRET.

What are we fretting for, day after day,
Worrying our lives and good tempers away.
Envyng our neighbors, and reaching for
gains,
Which when we attain are not worth half
the pains.
If we know in our hearts that in heaven
above
There's a Father who watches His children
in love,
Then why aren't we true to that knowledge,
and so,
Just trust to Him wholly and let the "cares"
go?
"God in heaven—'tis well with the world"—
For His glorious banners o'er earth are
unfurled;
Then let us be happy, and worry no more:
When faith enters in, doubt flies out the
door.
Once get rid of doubt, and 'tis true as can be,
That the heart from all worries and fears
must be free;
And this is the Christ-cure for each anxious
groan;
God cares for the sparrows, why not for
His owu?

CHOOSE CAREFULLY.

I BEG of you choose carefully your path.
The farmer is careful in the choice of
seed. He does not want bad seed or
inferior seed, because he knows that
such will give a poor crop. He looks for
the best seed he can buy. If you choose to
sow to the flesh, you will have a corrupted
harvest. If you commit a sinful deed it
may land you in a dishonored grave.
Choice is a solemn thing. You can make
this moment a turning-point in your life.
Once, during the conquest of Peru, Pizarro's
followers threatened to desert him. They
gathered on the shore to embark for home.
Drawing his sword, he traced a line with it
in the sand from east to west. Then, turn-
ing toward the south, he said: "Friends
and comrades, on that side are toil, hunger,
nakedness, the drenching storm and death;
on this side, ease and pleasure. There lies
Peru with all its riches; here Panama and
its poverty. Choose each man as becomes
a brave Castilian. For my part, I go
south." So saying, he stepped across the
line, and one after another his comrades
followed him, and the destiny of South
America was decided.
Napoleon was once offered a position as
officer in the Turkish artillery. He declined
it; but had he chosen to accept it, the his-
tory of Europe would have been different.
—Moody.

DID NOT KNOW IT WAS THERE.

A well-to-do deacon in Connecticut was
one morning accosted by his pastor, who
said, "Poor Widow Green's wood is out.
Can you not take her a cord?"
"Well," answered the deacon, "I have the
wood and I have the team; but who is to
pay me for it?" The pastor replied: "I
will pay you for it, on condition that you
read the first three verses of the forty-first
Psalm before you go to bed to-night." The
deacon consented, delivered the wood, and
at night opened the Word of God and read
the passage: "Blessed is he that considereth
the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time
of trouble. The Lord will preserve him,
and keep him alive, and he shall be blest
upon the earth, and thou wilt not deliver
him unto the will of his enemies. The
Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of
languishing; thou wilt make all his bed in
his sickness."
A few days afterward the pastor met him
again.
"How much do I owe you, deacon, for
that cord of wood?"
"Oh," said the now enlightened man, "do
not speak of payment; I did not know
those promises were in the Bible. I would
not take money for supplying the widow's
wants."

"NO MAN LIVETH TO HIMSELF."

Every man is a missionary now and for-
ever, for good or for evil, whether he in-
tends or designs it or not. He may be a
blot, radiating his dark influence outward
to the very circumference of society, or he
may be a blessing, spreading benediction
over the length and breadth of the world;
but a blank he cannot be. There are no
moral blauks; there are no neutral char-
acters. We are either the sower that sows
and corrupts, or the light that splendidly
illuminates, and the salt that silently oper-
ates; but, being dead or alive, every man
speaks.—Chalmers.

ABOUT RIGHT.

There is a question often asked: "Is the
world growing better or worse?" A body
of ministers recently discussed this ques-
tion, and arrived at the conclusion that the
good in the world is getting better, and the
bad is getting worse. Between these two
extremes there is a great chasm. This gulf
is becoming more and more impassable.
The problem which becomes increasingly
difficult to solve is how to reach the masses.
If you say reach them through the papers,
you are confronted with the fact that the
secular press is steadily becoming more and
more polluted, and instead of being any
help in elevating or saving the degraded
classes, it helps rather to degrade all classes.
The religious papers never reach this out-
cast class at all; neither can they be reached
by the pulpit. It is a good thing to agitate
and to impress the great and important
issues upon the people from the pulpit;
but, after all, only about ten per cent of
the population of this country are habitual
church-goers. Twenty-five per cent in-
cludes all who are occasional church-goers,
while something over fifty per cent of the
entire population never darken the door of
any church.—Lutheran Observer.

THE POWER OF PRAYER.

Are you in sorrow? Prayer can make
your afflictions sweet and strengthening.
Are you in gladness? Prayer can add to
your joy a celestial perfume. Are you in
extreme danger, whether from outward or
inward enemies? Prayer can set at your
right hand an angel whose touch "could
shatter a millstone into smaller dust than
the flour it grinds," and whose glance could
lay an army low. When St. Felix, of Nola,
was hotly pursued by murderers, he took
refuge in a cave, and instantly, over the
rift of it, the spiders wove their webs, and,
seeing this, the murderers passed by. Then
said the saint, "Where God is not, a wall is
but a spider's web; where God is, a spider's
web is as a wall." What will prayer do for
you? I answer, All that God can do for
you. When he bids us pray it is as though
he said to us, "Ask what I shall give thee."
—Canon Farrar.

GIVING AND LEAVING.

There is a significant distinction between
these two words, which the "Christian
Work" notes in the following manner:
"So Mr. Jones gave \$500 to missions at
his death, did he? The question was asked
of a city pastor the other day. And the an-
swer was, 'I did not say he gave it, but that
he left it; perhaps I should have more ex-
plicitly said that he relinquished \$500 be-
cause he could no longer hold it.' The
distinction needs to be kept in mind. One
gives, only when living; he relinquishes
at death. There is Scripture commendation
for giving, but none that we recall for relin-
quishing what the cold, stiffened fingers of
death can no longer hold. Now please let
us be delivered from a batch of letters
from correspondents, saying, 'Oh, you are
discongrating bequests.' Stop and think
before you waste a postage-stamp on such
an effusion."

THE BASKET OF WATER.

"My son," said an Arab chief, "bring me
a basket of water from the spring."
The boy tried and tried to fill the basket,
and before he could get back to his father's
tent the water leaked. At last he returned
and said:
"Father, I have tried to fill the basket
but the water will not stay in."
"My son," said the old chief, "what you
say is true." The water did not stay in, but
see how clean the basket is. So will it be
with your heart. You may not be able
to remember all the good words you hear,
but keep trying to treasure them and
they will make your heart clean and pure.
—Religious Intelligencer.

We call the attention of our readers to the
advertisement of Marvin Smith Co., Chic-
ago, in this issue. It appeals with singular
force to the thrifty and economical farmer
who wishes to purchase at first hands high-
grade farm implements, such as Drills,
Seeders, Plows, Harrows, Cultivators, Land-
rollers, Pumping and Power Mills, etc., at the
lowest bed-rock prices. This firm handles
only the best goods and quote prices that
cannot be met elsewhere. Read their adver-
tisements in this issue, and send for their
Spring Agricultural Catalog. Also observe
their Buggy advertisement in this issue;
they offer surprising bargains in this
line. Mention FARM AND FIRESIDE when you
write.



MADE TO ORDER SUITS, \$7.60

No House in the world would offer such marvelous Bargains in Clothing as we do. Just think of it. Every Suit made to Measure, strictly at prices 40 per cent less than you will pay at home for ready made goods. Send 2c. stamp for Illustrated Catalogue and Samples mailed Free to any address. Ask for Catalogue C.

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We manufacture all our Carpets and sell them directly to you at one small profit. In our Furniture, Clothing and Shoe Departments our tremendous cash purchasing power has earned us the reputation of being the greatest price cutters in the world. No matter how low our price may seem to you, you may depend that the goods we sell are as high in value as though we asked twice the amount. We employ no agents, therefore you save the commission we would have to pay otherwise. Write for our Catalogues, they will save you 40 per cent in your buying. Remember, we guarantee everything we sell and we pay transportation charges to any city, town or hamlet in the U. S. Every dollar you spend with us means double value to you.

A \$3.00 Pair of Shoes delivered Free of charge to any part of the United States for \$1.98

Our Catalogue of Shoes for Spring Season of 1898 is now ready, containing beautiful illustrations of the newest things in Men's Footwear. Send 2c. stamp to-day and ask for Catalogue E.

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WE PAY THE FREIGHT.



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that has been manufactured for the season of 1898, in a new and complete Furniture Catalogue. You could not buy Furniture until you send for this book. Ask for Catalogue B. Mailed Free to any address on receipt of 2c. stamp.

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Our Miscellany.

THE man is best served who has no occasion to put the hands of others at the end of his own arms.—Rousseau.

IT is better to have a lion at the head of an army of sheep than a sheep at the head of an army of lions.—De Foe.

IT is not the greatness of a man's means that makes him independent, so much as the smallness of his wants.—Corbett.

HE who wishes to travel far is careful of his steed; drink, eat, sleep, and let us light a fire which shall continue to burn.—Racine.

THE attention of our readers is called to the advertisement of A. A. Gray, Redwood Falls, Minn., as a breeder of prize-winning fowls. He stands in the first rank.

HAPPINESS must be cultivated. It is like character. It is not a thing to be safely let alone for a moment, as it will run to weeds.—Phelps.

MANY people take no care of their money till they have come nearly to the end of it, and others do just the same with their time.—Goethe.

THE more we have read, the more we have learned, the more we have meditated, the better conditioned we are to affirm that we know nothing.—Voltaire.

THE words that a father speaks to his children in the privacy of home are not heard by the world, but, as in whispering-galleries, they are clearly heard at the end, and by posterity.—Richter.

HE who does a kindness to an ungrateful person sets his seal to a flint, and sows his seed upon the sand; upon the former he makes no impression, and from the latter finds no production.—South.

HE who would pass the declining years of his life with honor and comfort should, when young, consider that he may one day become old, and remember, when he is old, that he has once been young.—Addison.

A MAINE fruit-grower has succeeded in raising a crop of peaches with skins as devoid of the annoying fuzz as is an apple. Next year he proposes to raise peaches with a skin that can be removed like that of an orange.

IOWA could put 250,000 soldiers in the field in defense of the nation, if they were required, and still have left enough men, boys and robust women to cultivate the fields, milk the cows, make the butter and keep the agricultural machine in full operation.

POUNDER'S Harrows have become a household word with all up-to-date farmers, and why? Because they do the work so easily and well, saving time, labor and money. Write G. H. Pounder, Fort Atkinson, Wis., and ask for descriptive circular and mention FARM AND FIRESIDE when you write.

IT is generally assumed that California is the greatest fruit state in the Union, but the official figures show that the Missouri fruit crop exceeds that of California in value by \$2,500,000. The apple crop of Missouri is alone valued at \$12,000,000. The value of the state's total fruit crop is \$19,500,000.

THE delta of the Danube is about to be drained and rescued for agricultural purposes by the Roumanian government. Nearly 750,000 acres of fertile land will thus be made available. The enterprise is the greatest of its kind ever undertaken, and at least five years will be required to carry it to completion.

THERE are three hundred farmers' clubs in Michigan, with a total membership of 20,000, and they are being urged to look sharply after the nominations for the state legislature at the next election, and to see that they go to men who will care for the farmers' interests. It is proposed to have a club in every township.

MOHLAND'S Stumppullers are known all over the world as the best and most efficient machine for clearing land of stumps. Their power, when harnessed to a stump is simply cyclonic—nothing can withstand their twisting-pulling power. They are made to last a lifetime and the price at which they are sold is beyond competition. Write Mohland & Co., Burlington, Iowa, for descriptive circular, etc., and mention this paper. See adv. in this issue.

THOMAS JEFFERSON'S TEN RULES.

1. Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
3. Never spend your money before you have it.
4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap; it will be dear to you.
5. Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst and cold.
6. We never repent of having eaten too little.
7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
8. How much pain the evils that never happened have cost us!
9. Take things always by their smooth handle.
10. When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, a hundred.

COLUMBIA CHAINLESS BICYCLE GIVEN AWAY! Full particulars in Feb. 1st issue of this paper.

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

Peter Henderson & Co., New York. Manual of "Everything for the Garden."
Johnson & Stokes, Philadelphia, Pa. Garden and farm manual telling all about "Seeds that Grow."

R. & J. Farquar & Co., Boston, Mass. Catalogue of reliable seeds, plants, bulbs, fertilizers, tools, etc.

D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Mich. Seed annual for 1898. Among specialties is the Mammoth White Cory sweet corn.

F. Barteldes & Co., Lawrence, Kan. Descriptive catalogue of farm, garden and flower seeds.

Stark Bros.' Nurseries and Orchards Co., Louisiana, Mo. Stark Fruit Book. Among specialties described are Gold plum, Van Deman quince, and Apple of Commerce and Senator apples.

Green's Nursery Co., Rochester, N. Y. Green's Fruit Instructor. Among specialties listed are Red Cross currant and Loudon raspberry.

Lewis Roesch, Fredonia, N. Y. Nursery catalogue. Specialty—grape-vines.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Burpee's farm annual for 1898, telling "the plain truth about seeds."

Cole's Seed Store, Pella, Iowa. Cole's garden annual of garden, field and flower seeds.

J. A. Everitt, Indianapolis, Ind. Catalogue of Everitt's "O. K." seeds and of man-weight farm and garden tools.

James Vick's Sons, Rochester, N. Y. Vick's Garden and Floral Guide—handsomer and better than ever.

Geo. S. Singer, Cardington, Ohio. Illustrated catalogue of the Olentangy incubators and brooders.

C. C. Shoemaker, Freeport, Ill. Shoemaker's almanac and poultry annual. Price, 15 cents.

Monarch Vehicle Co., Columbus, Ohio. Illustrated catalogue of vehicles. Surreys a specialty.

The P. P. Mast Buggy Co., Springfield, Ohio. Illustrated catalogue of fine carriages and buggies.

G. Camerer, Madison, Ind. Descriptive circulars of vineless-sweet potatoes and Golden Wyandotte chickens.

Wm. Carson & Son, Rutland, Ohio. Descriptive catalogue of small fruit-plants.

Livingston's Seed Store, Des Moines, Iowa. Eleventh annual catalogue of "Sure to Grow" seeds.

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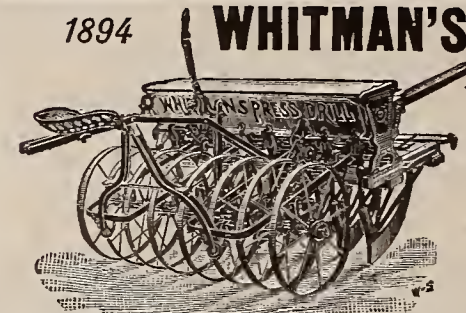
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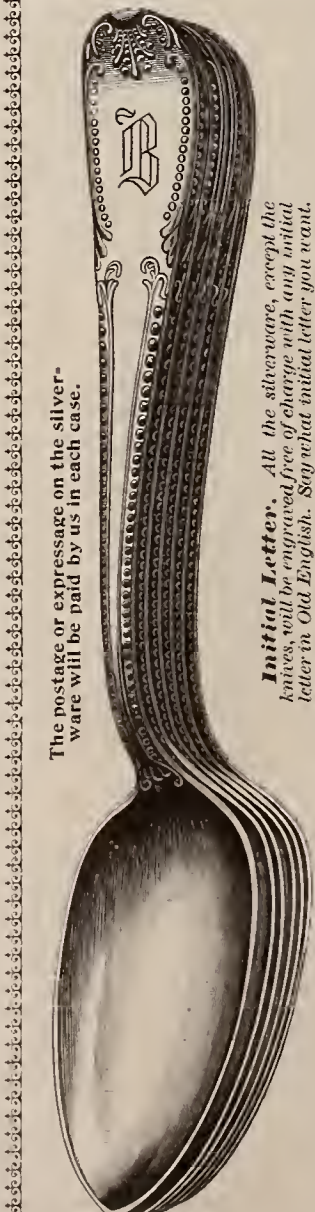
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Big Success. GUARANTEED. Everything new. Supplies Free. Season is here, so act quick. FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, O.

698 CARDS
New styles of Hidden Name, Silk fringe, Envelope Cards, etc., 20 New Songs, 100 Rich and Rare Jokes, 1 pack Escort Cards, 1 pack Fun Cards, 1 pack Acquaintance Cards and Standard Beau Catcher. Only 2c. BUCKEYE CARD CO., LACEVILLE, OHIO.

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100 Varieties; from 1.50, up. Get our CUT PRICES. New catalogue of CLUB ROOM & FAIR GROUND GOODS. Address, OGDEN & CO., - 185 CLARK ST., - CHICAGO, ILLS.

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New Sample styles of Envelope Silk Fringe CARDS, etc., 20 New Songs, 100 Rich and Rare Jokes, 1 pack Escort Cards, 1 pack Fun Cards, 1 pack Acquaintance Cards and Standard Beau Catcher. ALL FOR TWO CENTS. CROWN CARD CO., CADIZ, OHIO.

700
Sample Styles of Silk Fringe Cards, Hidden Name Cards, Love Cards, Scrap Pictures, Games, Puzzles, Album Verses, The Star Puzzle, The 13 Puzzle, and Acrostic Sample Album of four latest Cards. Send a two cent stamp for postage. Banner Card Co., CADIZ, OHIO.

WANTED
address of ruptured men. Send 6 and we'll mail free a present that will please you. S. H. CO., Westbrook, Maine.

\$75 MONTH AND EXPENSES;
experience unnecessary; position permanent; self-seller. PEASE MFG. CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

SALESMAN—TO SELL CIGARS TO DEALERS.
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to sell to dealers. \$100 monthly and expenses. Experience unnecessary. Enclose stamp. Acme Cigar Co. Chicago

SALESMEN
for cigars; \$125 a month and expenses; old firm; experience unnecessary; inducements to customers. C. C. BISHOP & CO., St. Louis.

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Smiles.

THE KISS.

You may send your sweetheart presents Through the mail if you desire; Can transmit a loving message By the telegraphic wire. You may pen a sweet proposal, Get an answer most sublime; But a kiss not done in person Is a failure every time.

—Truth.

A DEAR.

She has such dainty little hands, The kind that Cupid loves, But, oh! it costs an awful lot To keep those hands in gloves. She has two little shell-like ears, With blue veins lightly crossed, That means five \$100 bills— You know what ear-rings cost. Her costumes always are superb, Quite chic and up-to-date; The other women envy her— And I—I pay the freight. And do I love her? Yes, indeed! As every one can see, She always was and always will Be very dear to me.

—Somerville Journal.

SETTLED AT LAST.

A STORY appears in the "Youth's Companion" concerning the application of a man to President Lincoln for appointment to a position as army chaplain.

Attached to the original document are a number of indorsements which are not only interesting in themselves, but as disclosing the character of the two men whose influence largely molded the policy of the government in those turbulent times. The indorsements read as follows:

Dear Stanton: Appoint this man chaplain in the army.—A. Lincoln.

Dear Mr. Lincoln: He is not a preacher.—E. M. Stanton.

The following indorsements are dated a few months later, but come just below:

Dear Stanton: He is now.—A. Lincoln.

Dear Mr. Lincoln: But there is no vacancy.—E. M. Stanton.

Dear Stanton: Appoint him chaplain at large.—A. Lincoln.

Dear Mr. Lincoln: There is no warrant of law for that.—E. M. Stanton.

Dear Stanton: Appoint him anyhow.—A. Lincoln.

Dear Mr. Lincoln: I will not.—E. M. Stanton.

The appointment was not made, but the papers were filed, and remain as evidence of Lincoln's friendship and Stanton's obstinate nerve.

SECOND-HANDED.

"John," said Mrs. Harkins, "I heard a nice compliment for you to-day." Mr. Harkins put his paper down, twisted up the ends of his mustache, looked pleased, and said:

"Well, that's nothing remarkable. I receive compliments nearly every day."

Mrs. Harkins went on sipping her tea, and her husband waited for her to resume. Finally he said:

"Well, why don't you tell me what it was? Who was it that complimented me?"

"Oh, you couldn't guess in a week."

"Mrs. Deering?" he ventured.

"No."

"Not Bessie Falington?" he rather eagerly suggested.

"No."

"Oh, well, of course, if there's any secret about it, I don't care to hear what it is or who said it."

"There isn't any secret about it," Mrs. Harkins sweetly replied. "Mr. Hannaford told me that every time he and I met he became more thoroughly convinced that you were a man of excellent taste."

John Harkins then shoved his hands down into his pockets and walked outside to think it over.—Tit-Bits.

SAVE YOUR MOTHER; LET YOUR WIFE DROWN.

There was a spirited debate at the colored Baptist church last night. The question up for consideration was as to whether a man should save his wife or mother if both were drowning. Willie Hancock and the Rev. Mr. Ward spoke in favor of the wife, but Jim Rollins, Mrs. Vina Hardin, Mrs. Ward and Bill Adams each pleaded in behalf of the mother. A jury of colored women heard the evidence, and after due consideration voted that the mother should be the one saved. The argument which clinched the decision was that if a mother should drown another could not be obtained; but if a wife should go under, her successor could easily be picked up.—Carthage Press.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. The genuine has L. B. Q. on each tablet.

QUICK REPARTEE.

A story about lawyers is contributed by a Western correspondent. Mr. Babson, we will call him, was a young lawyer of the town where the court was held, while the opposing counsel, Mr. Carter, was a much better known attorney of a neighboring city.

Mr. Babson was addressing the jury, and having explained a point of law to the jurors, he turned to Mr. Carter with the words: "Isn't that right?"

Mr. Carter thought that he had a very verdant subject on his hands, and with a smile of conscious superiority replied:

"I have an office in C., and if you have any legal problems that you desire to have solved, I shall be pleased to enlighten you, for a financial consideration."

Not in the least abashed, Mr. Babson drew from his pocket a ten-cent piece, and held it out toward Mr. Carter with the words:

"Here, tell us what you know and hand back the change."—Youth's Companion.

THE LATEST KLONDIKE STRIKE.

"I tell you," said the returned Klondike prospector, "things looked pretty blue for me for awhile up there just before the luck came. My last dollar was gone. I didn't know what to do. Finally, one evening I started out with the intention of committing suicide by allowing myself to freeze. It was the turning-point in my life. I hadn't walked more than five rods before I stumbled against something hard. I lifted it up. You can wager I gave up the idea of committing suicide right there."

"You found gold," observed a bystander.

"Gold? No! It was a big chunk of earned beef that some prospecting syndicate had lost. I put it in my pocket, took it to the settlement, converted it into cash, and bought a ticket home. I intend to take life pretty easy from now on."—Puck.

PATERNAL FAILURE.

When the young man called to ask for the old man's daughter the latter naturally thought it was necessary to put up a good bluff, that being the usual method of procedure. Consequently he looked solemn, coughed once or twice as a sort of preliminary, communed with himself a minute or two, coughed again and asked:

"Can you support her in the style to which she has been accustomed?"

"If I couldn't," returned the young man, promptly, "I ought to be ashamed of myself."

The old man's bluff was called.—The Chicago Post.

HE'LL NOT DO IT.

Two ladies in a Nebraska town were talking recently about the characteristics of Mr. Bryan. One was a Baptist and the other a Presbyterian. The lady who was a Baptist remarked that Mr. Bryan, who was a Presbyterian, had serious thoughts of joining the Baptist church. The other lady looked at her incredulously, and after awhile remarked:

"Oh, no, he won't."

"Why not?"

"He would have to be immersed, and he's afraid to get out of sight of the people that long."—Nebraska State Journal.

AN ALL-ROUND VICTIM.

"Do you know Gus Jackson, the fellow with the glass eye?"

"Yes. What about him?"

"He was run over by a scorch in the street yesterday, knocked down, and had his glass eye smashed."

"Yes."

"Then he was arrested for throwing glass in the public highway."

JUST HIT IT.

Thompson—"Something worrying you, Newman?"

Newman—"Forgotten what my wife ordered this morning. I remember that, at the time, I thought, 'Well, that's a sad subject.' What could it have been?"

Thompson—"Was it sad-irons?"

Newman—"That's just what it was—three sad-irons."—Judge.

PERHAPS THAT IS WHY.

"When a doctor is ill he invariably calls in another physician to treat him, but one tailor never goes to another for a suit of clothes."

"Well, a doctor who treats a doctor never sends a bill for his services."—Judge.

HOW SHE GETS ALONG.

Dorothy—"I wonder how Mrs. Walker manages to get on with her husband? He is such a slippery fellow."

Mildred—"My dear, she just walks over him rough-shod."—Detroit Free Press.

DRUNKENNESS IS A DISEASE.

Will send free Book of Particulars how to cure Drunkenness or the Lignor Habit with or without the knowledge of the patient. Address Dr. J. W. Haines, No. 429 Race Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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If you have lame back, cannot retain urine and feel poorly generally, you have kidney trouble. Some get well and others die. If you would get well our pamphlet will help you. It is free. Write THE TAYLOR CHEMICAL CO., 128 East Ninth Street, Dept. E. CINCINNATI, OHIO.

VARICOCELE and Stricture CURED without pain in 8 days. Failure impossible. Absolute satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. F. W. Cook, of Jasper, Mo., says: "Your treatment for Varicocele has no equal. All others failed, but yours cured me permanently two years ago." N. J. Tallman, of Buffalo, N. Y., says: "Your treatment for stricture saved my life when I was almost a perfect wreck." Nelson A. Pettie, of Wiscon, N. Y., says: "Your wonderful treatment completely cured my Stricture in 7 days." Thousands more will gladly testify. Advice and book free. **ROWE MEDICAL CO., Box A, Buffalo, New York.**

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BIRDS



WRIST

whim, -v.t. To form into wrinkles, as the skin; to contract into furrows; to crease; to corrugate; to make rough or uneven. -v.l. To shrink into furrows and ridges. wrist, -vst, n. The joint by which the hand is united to the arm. -wristband, n. The band or part of a shirt-sleeve which covers the wrist. writ, -rt, n. That which is written; the Scriptures; a legal document issued by competent authority, giving a command or directiv. write, -rt, v.t. To set down in letters or words; to inscribe; to make known, communicate or express, by means of characters formed by the pen, etc.; to compose and produce, as an author. -v.l. To trace characters with a pen, pencil or the like upon paper or other material;

563

to be engaged in literary work; to convey information by letter. -writer, n. One who writes; a person or characters for the purpose of recording ideas; manuscript; any written composition. writhe, -vrt, v.t. To twist or distort, as the body or limbs; to twist with violence. -v.l. To be distorted, as from agony; to twist the body about, as in pain. wrong, -rong, a. Not right; not suitable; not according to rule or design; not according to justice, facts or truth; inaccrate; erroneous. -n. An injustice; what is not right, especially morally; an injury. -v.t. In a wrong manner; erroneously; incorrectly. -v.l. To do wrong to; to treat with injustice. wrote, -vot, v.t. Past of write. wroth, -vot, a. Very angry;

NEURALIA

much exasperated; wrathful; indignant. -vrt, v.t. Past of work. wrong, -vrt, n. Past of write. wry, -rt, a. Abnormally or unnaturally bent or turned to one side; crooked; twisted;



Wryneck.

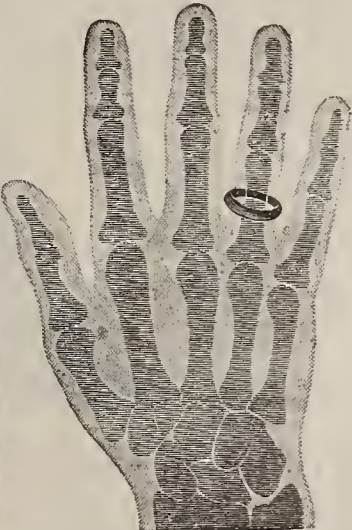
distorted. -wryneck, n. A twisted or distorted neck; a bird allied to the woodpeckers, which twists its neck in a singular manner. wryen, -vrt, n. Dragon-like monster used in heraldry.

X

X. The twenty-fourth letter and hundredth consonant-sign of the English alphabet. X-ray, n. A radiant energy capable of penetrating matter with varying degrees of facility, yet which appears to cannot be refracted. It

from the discoverer, Dr. Wilhelm Roentgen, of Germany. xanthophen, -zanth-phen, n. A musical instrument something like the harmonicon, the strings of which are played upon by small bows. xanthic, -zanth-ic, n. A yellow

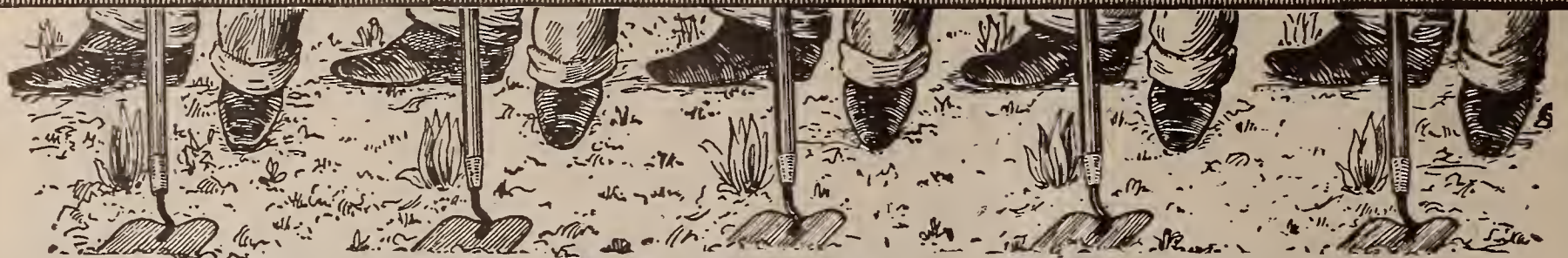
X ray tube.



will affect sensitive plates and produce shadow photographs of objects invisible to the eye. The apparatus used is a high vacuum tube of glass, through which an electric current is passed. Sometimes called Roentgen rays

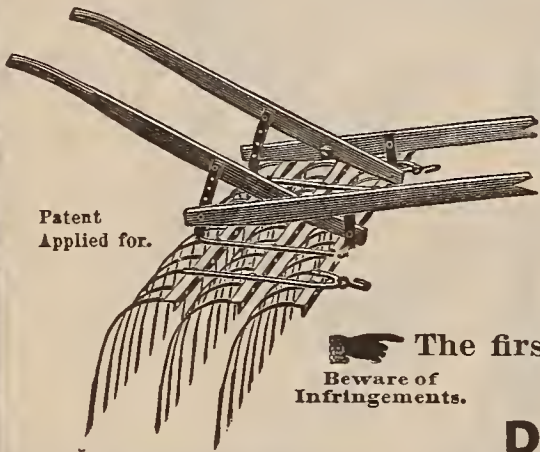
to be engaged in literary work; to convey information by letter. -writer, n. One who writes; a person or characters for the purpose of recording ideas; manuscript; any written composition. writhe, -vrt, v.t. To twist or distort, as the body or limbs; to twist with violence. -v.l. To be distorted, as from agony; to twist the body about, as in pain. wrong, -rong, a. Not right; not suitable; not according to rule or design; not according to justice, facts or truth; inaccrate; erroneous. -n. An injustice; what is not right, especially morally; an injury. -v.t. In a wrong manner; erroneously; incorrectly. -v.l. To do wrong to; to treat with injustice. wrote, -vot, v.t. Past of write. wroth, -vot, a. Very angry;

xanthine, -zanth-in, n. A yellow line in the skin caused by pigmentary deposit. xanthophthalmia, -zanth-oph-thal-mia, n. A form of color blindness where the subject can only distinguish yellow and blue, but has no knowledge or sense of red. xanthodont, -zanth-on-dont, a. Having teeth of a yellow color, as found in rodents. xebec, -zebek, n. A three-masted vessel used in the Mediterranean, with both square and latten sails. xenia, -ze-nia, n. A genus of gall found in the apple scabs of America, having a forked tail and making its nest on the ground. xenarthrum, -ze-nar-thrum, a. Having additional articulations or joints in the dorsal-lumbar vertebrae. xenichia, -ze-ni-cha, n. Any cystic law putting probabilities on strangers, as the hives of Sparta forbade strangers special permission were obtained. -xenich, ze-ni-ah, a. Pertaining to the rights and privileges of a guest; the relations existing between a guest and his host. xenium, -ze-ni-um, n.; pl. xenia. The present a host always gave a guest in olden times. xeranthus, -ze-ran-thus, n. A disease of the hair where it becomes very dry and brittle and stops growing.



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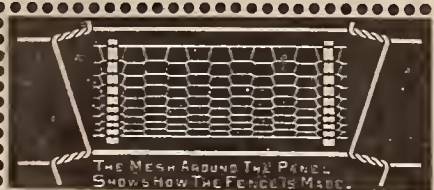
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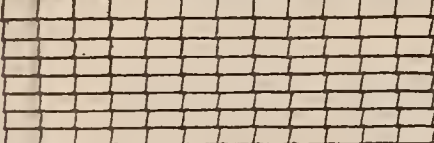
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are the only things not successfully turned or confined by **KEYSTONE WOVEN WIRE FENCE.** Nothing else can get through it, under or over it. Can't injure anything because it's all smooth wire. Never sag—takes up its own expansion and contraction. If your dealer doesn't keep it order direct from us. We pay the freight. Any height up to 55-in. Write for free circulars. **KEYSTONE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., 30 Rnsh St. Peoria, Ill.**



COIL SPRING WIRE FENCE. 4 FEET HIGH. 20¢ PER ROD. LOOK DAY. CATALOGUE FREE. KOKOMO FENCE MACHINE CO. No. 12 NORTH ST. KOKOMO, IND. U.S.A.



Cabled Field and Hog Fence,

24 to 34 inches high; Steel Web Picket Lawn Fence; Poultry, Garden and Rabbit Fence; Steel Gates, Steel Posts and Steel Rails; Tree, Flower and Tomato Guards; Steel Wire Fence Board, etc. Catalogue free. **DEKALB FENCE CO., 38 High St., DeKalb, Ill.**

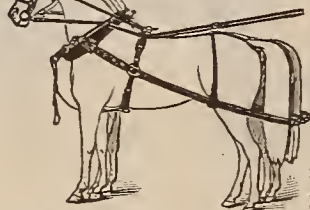


THE twist is what makes the Elusman Fence famous. With our Duplex Automatic Machine you can make 100 styles and 60 rods per day of the Best Woven Wire Fence on Earth. Horse-high, Bull-tough, Field-light. **FOR 18¢ PER ROD.** Chicken fence 12¢. Rabbit-proof fence 16¢. and a good hog fence for 12¢. per rod. Plain, Coiled Spring and Barbed Wire to farmers at wholesale prices. Catalogue FREE for the asking. Address: **ELUSMAN BROTHERS, Box 225, Ridgeville, Indiana.**



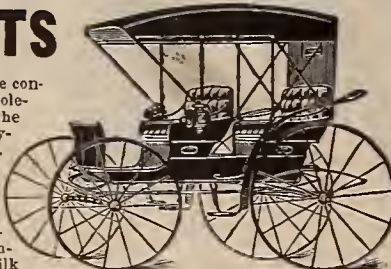
FARMERS' FENCE. The best and cheapest fence on earth. Weaver and Outfit \$3. Stretchers \$3 per 100. Wire at wholesale. Testimonials and circulars free. **T. J. ANDRE, Wauseon, O.**

WE HAVE NO AGENTS



No. 207. Farm Harness. Price, \$23.70. As good as sells for \$30.00.

but have sold direct to the consumer for 25 years at wholesale prices, saving him the dealer's profits. Ship anywhere for examination. Everything warranted. 118 styles of Vehicles, 55 styles of Harness. Top Buggies, \$36 to \$70. Surreys, \$50 to \$125. Carriages, Phaetons, Traps, Wagons, Spring-Road and Milk Wagons. Send for large, free Catalogue of all our styles.



No. 214. Price, with curtains, lamp, storm apron, fenders and pole, \$65. As good as sells for \$90.

ELKHART CARRIAGE AND HARNESS MFG. CO. W. B. PRATT, Sec'y ELKHART, IND.

\$16.34 BUYS this 8-ft. steel mill; guaranteed easiest running; strongest made; pump and power mills, 8 to 16-ft.; also tanks, pumps, pipe and all pumping supplies. We furnish complete outfits. Prices all reduced. Catalogue free. Don't fail to send for it.	\$5.95 buys a 2-horse Chilled Plow. Turns furrow 14 inches. 11 sizes chilled plows. The mill-steeled plow in picture cuts 12 to 16-in. Made of best material; warranted to scour in any soil. Price, \$9.30. 50 sizes and styles steel plows to select from.	\$15.40 This 2-h. Disc Harrow cuts 6-ft., has 12 16-in. discs. Wt. 350 lbs. Price, \$15.40. 5 other sizes. A 16-tooth Spring Harrow—price, \$8.75. All other sizes at reduced prices; also wood and steel frames smoothing harrow.	\$10.95 This 2-horse Cultivator, made of best material, with shields, neck, yoke and doubletrees, steel wheels. Price, complete, \$10.95. Usually sells for \$15 to \$18. Our high wheel Riding Cultivator, only \$15.	\$2.85 buys this Steel Beam Cultivator, plain, with 5 steel reversible shovels, giving two wearing edges. Spreads to 33-in. Most useful one-horse Cultivator made. We have 30 different styles and kinds to select from. Seeders—all kinds.
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A Ten Acre Lot

Is a beautiful plot after being worked with a "Planet Jr." 12 tooth Harrow. It will cultivate it better than any other implement under the sun, and in half the time. It cultivates deep or shallow, wide or narrow; prepares the ground for seed drilling and plant setting; has an attachment for cutting strawberry runners and a dozen distinctive features indispensable to the farmer and the berry grower. The "Planet Jr." Book for 1898 describes a score of tools belonging to the "Planet Jr." Family. It's a veritable revelation in labor saving devices and should be read by every man who plants for profit or for pleasure. Sent free to anyone anywhere. Will you have it?
S. L. ALLEN & CO., 1107 Market St., Philadelphia.

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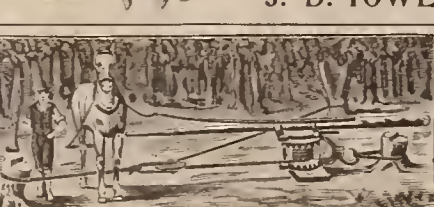
Works on either Standing Timber or Stumps. Pulls an Ordinary Grub in 1½ Minutes. Makes a Clean Sweep of Two Acres at a Sitting. A man, boy and a horse can operate it. No heavy chains or rods to handle. You cannot longer afford to pay taxes on unproductive timber land. Illustrated catalogue free, giving prices, terms. **MILNE MFG. CO., 794 8th St., Monmouth, Ill.** Address Milne Bros. for Shetland Pony Catalogue.



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both Riding and Walking, a complete success. They "Cultivate shallow," "Pulverize ground fine," "Preserve moisture," "Keep ground cleaner," "Handle easier," "Draw lighter," "Kill more cockleburrs, morning-glories, barn-grass, and raise more corn than any other cultivator made. A bonanza to farmers. A tool that pays the rent. Send for Treatise on Corn Culture, and discount to introduce where we have no agent.

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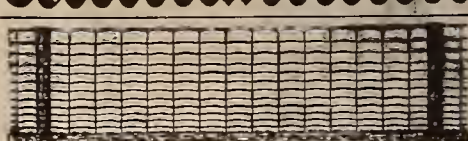
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All sizes and all prices. Catalogue free.

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Self-oiling, Best Governed, Acknowledged to be the most powerful and durable made. We have everything the farmer needs in this line. **Towers, Tanks and Pumps, Cutters, Grinders, Shellers, etc.** **POWER AND PUMPING MILLS** Catalogue, full of valuable points, free. **Appleton Mfg. Co., 9 Fargo St. BATAVIA, ILL.**



A Spring at Each End

of a wire mattress won't do. It must "give" wherever one chances to touch it. So in wire fence, the spring is needed wherever the shock may come. The continuous coil principle is the only solution, and it belongs to us only. See "ad" in next issue. **PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., Adrian, Mich.**

\$8.00 FOR A MACHINE to weave your own fence of COILED HARD STEEL SPRING WIRE. 52 inches high, at 25 Cents per Rod. 220 buys wire for 100 rod fence. Agents Wanted. Catalogue Free. **WIRE FENCE MACHINE CO., Box 29, Mt. Sterling, O.**

This is the **QUAKER CITY GRINDING MILL** For CORN and COBS, FEED & TABLE MEAL. Improved for '97-'98. Send for all mills advertised. Keep the best—return all others. **A.W. STRAUB & CO., Philadelphia, Pa. & Chicago, Ill.** We handle everything wanted at Chicago office, 4 S. Canal Street.

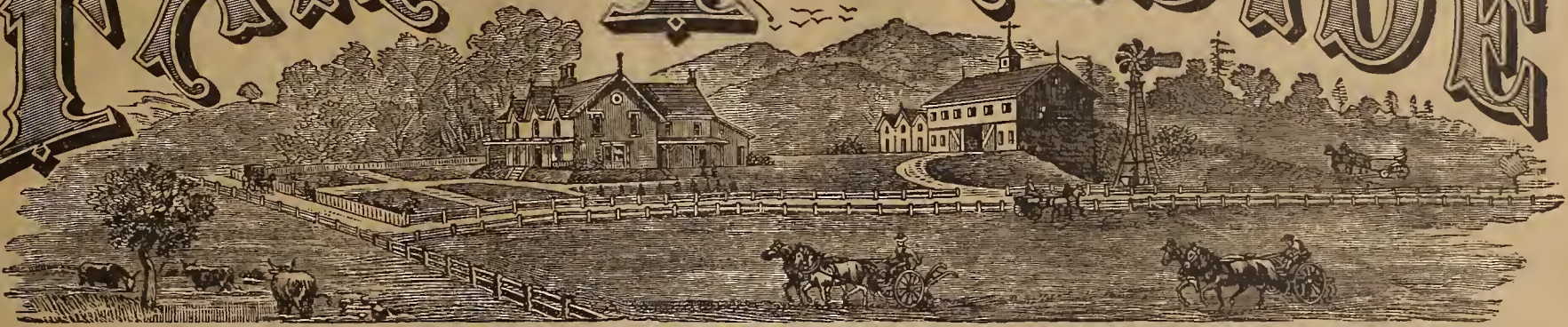
THIS BEATS A DROUTH No matter how dry the weather or what the crust is composed of, you can get a good well, every time, everywhere, with one of our **STAR DRILLING MACHINES.** They are better than others. Why? Listen—No springs, no cog gearing, longer stroke and more strokes per minute, truss rod axles, mounted on best wheels, boiler with flues in boiler waste, reverse link engine, 9 sizes. Full line tools, supplies. Send for free catalog. **STAR DRILLING MACHINE CO., AKRON, O.**

CIDER PRESS The only press awarded medal and diploma at World's Fair. **HYDRAULIC** Send for free catalogue and full particulars. **HYDRAULIC PRESS MFG. CO., No. 8 Main St., Mt. Gilead, Ohio.**

FIRE-WEATHER-LIGHTNING PROOF Black, painted or galvanized metal ROOFING and siding; (brick, rock or corrugated) METAL CEILINGS and SIDE WALLS. Write for CATALOGUE. **PENN METAL CEILING AND ROOFING CO., Ltd., Philadelphia.**

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FARM & FIRESIDE



EASTERN EDITION.

Entered at the Post-office at Springfield, Ohio, as second-class mail matter.

VOL. XXI. NO. 11.

MARCH 1, 1898.

TERMS (50 CENTS A YEAR.
24 NUMBERS.)

How to Reach the Farmer.....

No single publication in America has a subscription list so large that it reaches every farmer.

The advertiser who is determined to enter every farm-house in the land must advertise in a large number of agricultural journals—must pay a much higher rate than he would if only a few mediums of large circulation were used.

The larger the circulation the cheaper the rate pro rata—this is always true.

Take the Farm and Fireside, with its average circulation for the past three months of 335,550 copies per issue, the rate per line is fully 50 per cent cheaper than the one with a circulation only half or quarter as much.

Mr. Charles N. Kent, for years editor of the "American Newspaper Directory," says that Farm and Fireside leads all semi-monthly agricultural journals in circulation, and prints over 50 per cent more than SEVENTY-NINE others of the same class combined.

Don't experiment. First talk to the 335,550 Farm and Fireside readers. Then pay more pro rata for the others if you like.

WITH THE VANGUARD

In his first annual message to Congress, December last, President McKinley concluded a lengthy discussion of the Cuban problem as follows:

"The near future will demonstrate whether the indispensable condition of a righteous peace, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain as well, equitable to all our interests so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is likely to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When that time comes, that action will be determined in the line of indisputable right and duty. It will be faced without misgiving or hesitancy, in the light of the obligation this government owes to itself, to the people who have confided to it the protection of their interests and honor, and to humanity. Sure of the right, keeping free from all offense ourselves, actuated only by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by passion nor selfishness, the government will continue its watchful care of the rights and property of American citizens, and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies a peace which shall be honorable and enduring. *If it shall hereafter appear to be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and to humanity to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part, and only because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world.*"

Recent events of the greatest importance show that the limit of our patient waiting for Spain to end the contest in Cuba has been reached. The line where forbearance ceases to be a virtue has been crossed. The time for intervention with force seems to be at hand. In a recent address General Black voiced popular sentiment in these words: "For more than a century a policy of strict non-interference with foreign affairs has marked the councils of the nation. Now, in the name of humanity, in the name of duty, we are called urgently to modify that policy and to extend above struggling humanity near our

borders the great shield of American law. The land has been fermenting, Congress has been debating, newspapers discussing, and seventy millions of people are taking counsel of each other as to what they will do. Rest assured that whatever their decision may be, its execution will not retard American growth nor be dishonorable to the American name."

PRESS correspondence from Washington states that the Agricultural Department people say that their great trouble now, in connection with the beet-sugar question, is to keep people from rushing headlong into the project, where it is apparent that success cannot crown their efforts and that only disappointment and failure will result. The beet-sugar question has reached the proportions of a craze in many sections, and, while the Department officials have unbounded faith in the ability of the United States to produce all the beet-sugar necessary to supply our entire population, they say that there are comparatively small areas in which very high percents of sugar can be grown, and that the trouble lies in people insisting upon going into the business in sections where it is known that the beets grown will not contain a sufficient percentage of saccharine to return a profitable investment.

The statistics for the sugar consumption in the United States just published, show, however, that there is a vast field for the production of this crop and that there is no fear that there can be an "overproduction" for many years to come. The sugar consumed in the United States during 1897 reached the enormous total of 4,192,520,000 pounds, or over 2,000,000 tons, showing the very large increase over 1896 of 272,354,000 pounds. Of this total consumption, only 41,000 tons was from beets grown in this country. The total United States production of sugar, including beet, cane, maple-sugar and sorghum, was 336,000 tons, leaving a total of 1,760,000 tons, or 3,521,000,000 pounds to be purchased abroad. This is what the Agricultural Department wants to see raised at home, and their only fear is that attempts will be made to establish factories, at large cost, in sections where the beets raised produce so low a percentage of sugar as to be unable to compete with localities more favored by reason of rainfall, climatic conditions, etc.

THE recent action of Germany in discriminating against importations of American fruits, on the alleged ground that they are infested with the San Jose scale, has increased the notoriety of that pernicious "bug." A nurseryman who has had practical experience in California with this pest writes:

"The San Jose scale is evidently thoroughly established in numerous localities east of the Rocky mountains. Orchardists should accept the fact, quit talking about legislation, and turn their attention to prevention or cure, as the case may be, in their individual orchards. Some are making a "mountain out of a mole-hill," and seem to overlook entirely the fact that this scale problem was solved in California six or eight years ago, and is to-day requiring much less attention than some fungus diseases which are so numerous throughout the eastern and middle states. It is far easier to combat the San Jose scale than the codling-moth, scab, blight or borers; the former can be kept thoroughly in check with less work and expense than any one of the latter. This is an indisputable fact—a fact thoroughly demonstrated in the California orchards. It is not necessary to "dig up and burn a badly infested tree," as the wise ones often say. Three thorough sprayings with lime, sulphur and salt, or the resin washes properly applied at the right times, will clean any tree, no matter how many scale are on it; then one spraying a year is sufficient. Of course, if the scale have been on so long as to almost kill the tree, then a new one had better be planted. It sounds rather ridiculous to hear such an uproar about an insect that, as said before, is less dangerous or troublesome than many of the insects which orchardists are fighting and saying nothing about. The numbers of curculio, codling-moth and several others can only be diminished in a

degree, and the damage resulting from their depredations in proportion; but the scale can easily be rendered perfectly harmless."

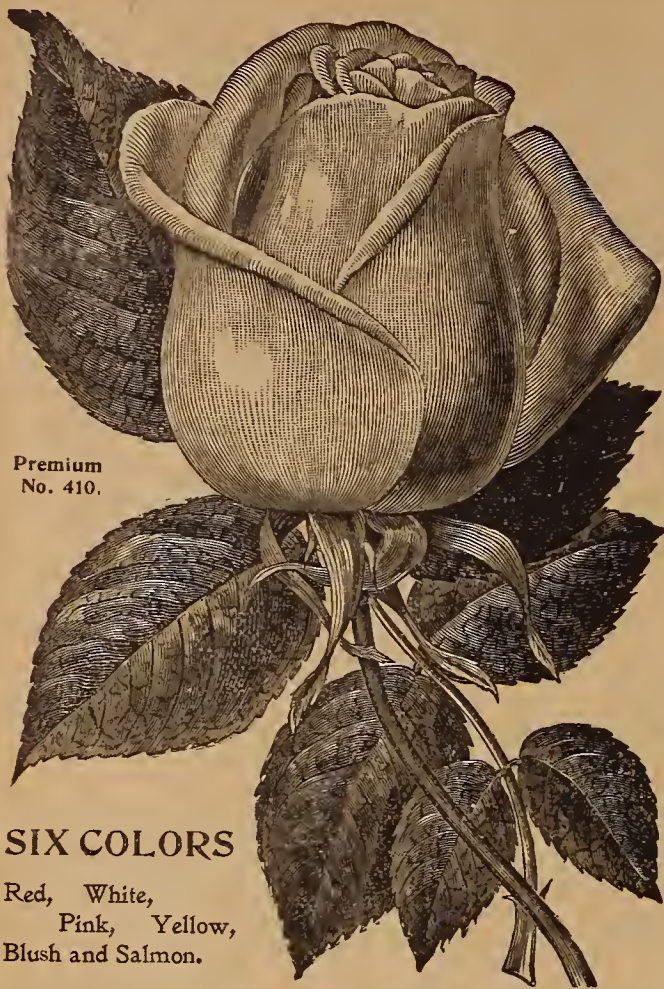
The San Jose scale may not be more destructive than some other injurious insects, or the fungus diseases, that fruit-growers must now fight persistently to secure a marketable crop. There may be no good reason for a "scare" over the appearance of this pest. But common prudence will suggest that effective measures be used promptly to destroy the pest wherever it has been introduced, and prevent its further spread. Its work may not be worse than that of borers or the codling-moth, but its method of distribution is different. It can be scattered from one end of the country to the other in a year's time, by young trees from an infested nursery, and one center of distribution will become ten thousand. No nurseryman who deserves the name will fail to have his trees, vines and shrubs frequently and thoroughly inspected, nor send out stock that is not absolutely free from the San Jose scale. The assurances in the above letter that the case is not hopeless, and that this pest can be readily exterminated, should encourage the work of extermination. Illustrated circulars of information concerning this insect may be had on application to Dr. L. O. Howard, Entomologist of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

In a warning circular, Prof. S. A. Forbes, state entomologist of Illinois, says: "The presence of this scale may be suspected when the surface of any fruit-tree or shrub is wholly or partly incrustated with an unhealthy scurf, which, when examined with a hand lens, is found composed of small circular scales closely packed together, of a color similar to that of the bark, although usually somewhat darker. If this incrustation can be scraped off in small flakes with the finger-nail, and if when crushed with the finger it gives the surface a greasy feeling, the presence of this scale is rendered still more likely."

THE treasury department figures for January, 1898, show the great increase in the exportation of domestic products for this month over the corresponding months in former years. The exports of breadstuffs in January, 1898, aggregated in value over \$24,771,000 against \$16,791,000 in January, 1897; \$15,128,000 in January, 1896; and \$9,629,558 in January, 1895. The total exports of domestic products in January, 1898, were in value \$72,161,000 against \$62,533,000 in January, 1897; \$61,033,000 in January, 1896; and \$59,236,000 in January, 1895. The exports of breadstuffs for the seven months ending January 31, 1898, amounted in value to \$183,027,000 against \$121,945,000 for the corresponding months of 1897; \$80,670,000 for same in 1896; and \$64,568,000 for same months in 1895. The total value of exportations of domestic products for seven months ending January 31st, compare as follows: 1898, \$474,348,000; 1897, \$423,006,000; 1896, \$334,849,000; and 1895, \$331,696,000.

BRAND the blend. Starch from corn is just as good as starch from wheat. Bread made from a blend of four parts of wheat flour and one part of corn flour may be, as claimed, just as wholesome as bread from all-wheat flour. But the selling of such a mixture as wheat flour is a fraud. Corn flour is worth about one and one half cents a pound, and wheat flour, three cents. The object of the mixer is not to improve the quality of bread, but to make money by selling corn flour at, or a little less than, the price of wheat flour.

"Flourine" may become as notorious as butterine. If the purchaser be not deceived, there is little or nothing in the business for the flour-mixer. Without deception the blend can be sold only at its true value. If, however, manufacturers put upon the market mixed flours plainly marked as such, they will be doing a legitimate business. Brand the blend.



Premium
No. 410.

SIX COLORS

Red, White,
Pink, Yellow,
Blush and Salmon.

The Five Geraniums are all large, strong plants on their own roots, and will bloom freely this spring and all summer. There are Five different colors, all of the choicest varieties.

We will send the Six Roses, and Farm and Fireside one year, for 35 cents.

We will send the Five Geraniums, and Farm and Fireside one year, for 40 cents.

We will send the Six Roses and Five Geraniums (Eleven Plants in all), and Farm and Fireside one year, for 50 Cents. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

6 TEA-ROSES FREE

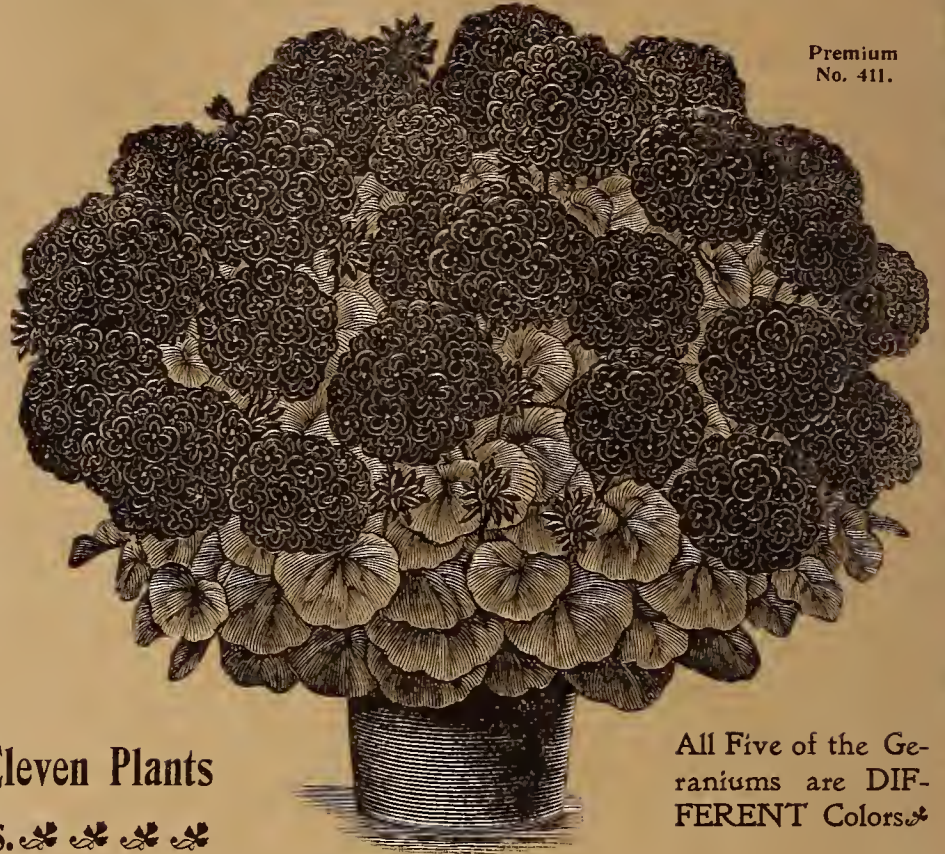
5 FINE GERANIUMS FREE

We will send the Six Roses and Five Geraniums (Eleven plants in all) FREE as a premium for a club of THREE yearly subscribers to Farm and Fireside.

All of the Six Tea-roses are hardy everbloomers on their own roots, and will bloom this summer, either in pots or planted in the yard. Six colors, all of the choicest varieties.

Entire
Satisfaction
and Safe
Delivery
Guaranteed
or your
Money
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Postage paid
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Premium
No. 411.

All Five of the Geraniums are DIFFERENT Colors. ❀

FREE KLONDIKE=ALASKA=CUBA

We have just had finished new maps of Cuba and Alaska made from the latest and most reliable government surveys. Size of each map 14 by 22 inches. The Alaska map also shows the upper portion of the northwest territory of Canada. It accurately locates the Klondike country and other great gold-fields recently discovered in that far-off land and the routes by which they are reached. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ The map of Cuba shows all the provinces, trochas, towns, rivers, etc. A new description of each country is sent with the maps.

THESE TWO NEW MAPS WILL BE SENT FREE TO ALL WHO ORDER THE PEOPLE'S ATLAS NOW

With these additions the People's Atlas is truly

A GIGANTIC BARGAIN

It contains 132 pages (each page is 11 inches wide and 14 inches long) and over 200 large maps and illustrations. It should be in every home and school-room.

IT IS ACCURATE. IT IS COMPLETE.
IT IS EDUCATIONAL. IT IS CHEAP.

It Gives the Population

OF EACH STATE AND TERRITORY,
OF ALL COUNTIES IN THE U. S.,
OF AMERICAN CITIES.

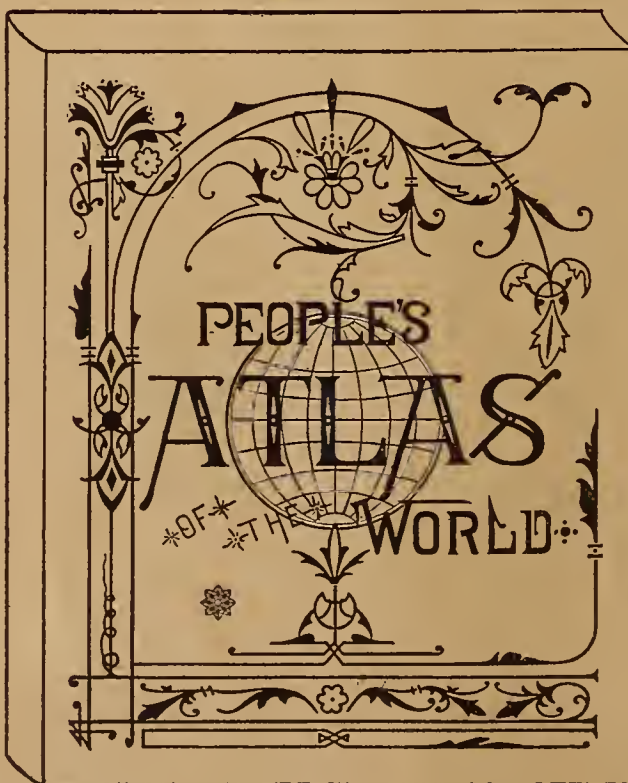
By the Last U. S. Census.

The excellent maps of all the states and territories in the Union are all large, full-page, and a number of double-page maps to represent the most important states of our country. All countries on the face of the earth are shown. Rivers and lakes are accurately located. All the large cities of the world, the important towns and most of the villages of the United States are given on the maps. It gives a classified list of all nations, with forms of government, geographical location, size and population.

There are special features relating to each state and to the United States. A general description of the world, with illustrations embellishing nearly every page. It is superior to any school geography.

Postage or expressage
paid by us in each case.

Premium No. 11.



Miniature cut of Atlas. Actual Size, Open, 14 by 22 inches; Closed, 14 by 11 inches.

In the People's Atlas we are offering

THOUSANDS IN VALUE

FOR ALMOST NOTHING.

It required years to gather the material for this Atlas. Over \$10,000.00 were expended for the engraving of maps and illustrations, for editorial labor, for type-setting and electroplates, etc., before a single Atlas was printed. Had we printed only a few thousand, they would cost \$5.00 to \$10.00 apiece.

FREE The People's Atlas given free as a premium for a club of two yearly subscribers to Farm and Fireside.

We will send Farm and Fireside one year and People's Atlas for

40 CENTS

Either of the offers on this page may be accepted and the name can be counted in a club. Both RENEWALS and new names can be counted in a club. Positively no reduction will be made from the above prices. No commission allowed.

For any premium on
this page address

FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

FARM AND FIRESIDE.

VOL. XXI. NO. 11.

MARCH 1, 1898.

TERMS ^{50 CENTS A YEAR.}
_{24 NUMBERS.}

Our Farm.

TALKS ON FAMILIAR TOPICS. STANDARD CROPS.

AS A RULE it is unwise for the average farmer to rely upon a single special crop. There are a few crops that are "standard" and enter into general consumption which are always safe to grow. Of these are hay and potatoes. Then success depends very much upon the farmer and his farm. As a rule, selling crops direct from the farm is not to be recommended. Soil depletion must come into the schedule of expenses of "cost of growing," when figuring for profit in special crops sold from the farm. For the past ten or twelve years the average price of potatoes has been such as to afford a good margin of profit. The two important factors in the problem are the crop and the price, the former gauged by the ability of the farmer, the latter by the market demand. There ought to be a good profit in growing potatoes at fifty cents a bushel. The market price seldom goes below that figure, but frequently much above. Quality and quantity grown an acre modify the result. We have learned a great deal about growing potatoes within the past ten years. Not the least of these is the matter of right soil conditions as to its effect upon the quality of the crop as well as to yield upon a given area. Then the system of special crop-growing is modified in its results by the crop rotation practiced, making these subsequent crops preparatory to the special potato crop, yet all tending to the same end—a higher condition of fertility of the soil.

CLOVER.

Clover as a preparation for the potato crop, the latter extended by the use of a good chemical manure, all combined makes an excellent preparation for wheat or corn. Farmers as a rule do not value red clover high enough as a crop in their rotation. When farmers come to realize that clover is the one and only plant that yields practically a crop of fodder and a generous amount of fertilizer at the same time, they will grow more clover. Here is an example: On a large dairy farm, annually, the corn crop is a leading one for ensilage. In this case, hay, ensilage and grain form the basis of operation. The soil is broken, manured and planted to corn. Mixed grain, oats, barley and wheat, or oats and peas followed by grass and clover follow next in rotation. This farmer keeps a dairy and sells his milk. In his first crop of clover he secures an excellent feed for his cows and horses. This, with his ground feed from mixed grain, gives him protein foods to balance the carbonaceous character of the ensilage made from nearly mature corn. This obviates the necessity of buying very largely of winter grain feeds; some cotton-seed meal and shorts are used. This farmer is well pleased with the plan.

CHEMICAL MANURES.

The question of the use of chemical manures as a main reliance in growing certain crops, keeping up the fertility of the farm meanwhile, seems to have found a solution in the experience of a farmer in Kennebec county, Maine. He uses fifteen to twenty tons of chemical fertilizer annually, and makes hay for the Boston market his sole line of farming. He has followed his present course for ten or more years, and has made money, and now has a liberal bank account, when before he was in debt. His farm is a clay loam, which he turns over in August, after haying, applies his fertilizer at the rate of 1,000 to 1,200 pounds to the acre, and sows his timothy and red-top seed in the fall, leaving the clover to be scattered in March or April. Two tons of hay to the acre for a year or two, then less, until in five years the yield is a ton or so, when the sod is inverted and the same course gone over again. His annual hay harvest is about one hundred and fifty tons of clean, fine hay. He is a gentleman over seventy years old, and has no children. He does the cultivating of his fields largely himself. Last year with his sulky-plow

and two heavy horses he turned over fifty acres. He pays an average of \$26 a ton for his fertilizer. Until this winter his hay has netted him, baled, ready for market in the barn, \$9 to \$11 a ton. How this farmer is making something more than a living at tilling the soil is quite easy to figure.

I have been highly interested in an experiment in farming with chemicals, which now has been going on for twelve years or more, long enough to show—in this case, at least—that under proper conditions and right management certain crops can be grown at a profit with the use of chemicals alone. The conditions in this case were a fairly retentive, clay-loam soil, underlaid with a hard-pan, but rolling and free from stagnant water, conditions which seem not to require draining. The beginning was with a field of five acres entirely run out. Three years subsequently, which brings it up to the date mentioned, sixty acres were added. The whole was dressed with a combination of bone and potash, the latter as found in kainit; 1,300 to 1,500 pounds an acre were used the first year and the whole sown to oats and seeded to grass. This was the handsomest field of oats I ever saw. The field averaged something over fifty bushels to the acre, and the crop sold for enough to pay all bills for growing and fertilizer. The two next succeeding hay crops averaged a little under two tons to the acre. There was a larger decrease in hay yield the next two years, and still more the two succeeding years of that period. This system has been followed by two enterprising young men until they have now some two hundred and seventy-five acres under cultivation. Hay for market has been their aim, but last season was so wet they grew some forty tons of Hungarian grass, which they are feeding with a part of their English hay to a lot of fine Jersey two-year-old heifers, all of which will come into the dairy before the last of September.

L. F. ABBOTT.

HOPS IN THE WEST. YIELD AND PROFIT.

Hop-growing is becoming one of the great farm industries of the West. Several thousand acres have been planted to hops in Idaho, Washington and California. Great hop-fields may be seen along the Pacific coast and in the Northwest, from which 1,000 to 4,000 pounds an acre are harvested every year. The net profits reach \$200 an acre, above all expenses, but of course many farmers realize much less.

Where hop cuttings are planted one season, the yield next year will average probably 1,000 pounds to the acre, with an increase yearly for about three years. One Colorado farmer reports 1,000 pounds the first year, 3,000 pounds the second and 8,000 pounds the third year, from each acre in a field containing twelve acres. After the third year the yield depends much upon cultivation, fertilization and pruning.

SOIL AND CULTURE.

The soil for hops should be deeply cultivated and well manured. A deep, alluvial loam, such as may be found in the river-bottoms, is best for the vine. The field should be thoroughly drained, both on the surface and beneath, to prevent root-disease and leaf-blight, caused from too much surface water. Cuttings should be planted three or four in a hill, six feet apart either way. This will give 1,031 hills to the acre, and require that number of poles, about twenty feet in length. The cuttings are usually taken from pruned runners, cut in pieces so as to have three or four eyes to a slip. These are planted three or four inches deep and left to take root and grow into vines. Clean cultivation is essential if good results are expected. Pruning is the first thing necessary in hop culture. All runners must be cut back and the crown stem topped. This work should not be neglected any year, or the crop will be decreased accordingly. The suckers, or runners, are used for planting or cast aside and fed to the cows, after drying a few days in the sun. Poles are generally set one to the hill, though many use two and

stretch wires between. Some good hop-growers prefer wire trellises, like those used for vineyards. The main vines must be trained up and tied on the poles or wires. A full force of men and women is kept busy for the entire month of April pruning and training the vines of big hop-fields, containing eighty acres or more. After pruning comes cultivation and spraying—neither must be neglected.

ENEMIES AND REMEDIES.

The enemies of hop culture are fleas and flies and blight, which are usually destroyed by spraying with kerosene emulsion or Paris green, in quantities used for plant-lice. A solution of tobacco is also used with much success for killing the insects. The vines will climb to the top of poles extending as high as thirty feet, and must be inspected after wind-storms to see that they do not drop down and hence not produce any hops. The female plants produce most abundantly, and are the only profitable ones to grow. These are known by the long cone clusters, which enlarge as the fruit or flowers ripen.

USES.

Hops contain tannic acid, which is used in the clarifying of beer. A hop-pillow is excellent in cases of sleeplessness. Hop-poultices are useful in many ways in the sick-chamber. Every family should have a package of hops in the house at all times, and the farmer ought to have a few vines growing at some convenient spot.

HARVESTING.

Hops are generally picked in August or September, before hard frosts destroy their valuable qualities. This is done by hand, when the vines are removed from the poles. The wages paid for pickers are about twenty cents a box of seven bushels, a good hand gathering about five boxes of seven bushels each in a day. The hops are dried in kilns, with a stove beneath the slats, upon which oil-cloth or other material is spread. When thoroughly dry the hops are packed in boxes of one fourth, one half and one pound each. Like all other farm products the price obtained for hops is very low. In 1888 dry hops sold at thirty cents a pound, while to-day one half that sum is considered a good price. But the prices of everything else being low leaves the hop-grower with a very good margin of profit if he attends strictly to the planting, cultivating and harvesting of his crop.

JOEL SHOMAKER.

CHEESE AND BUTTER MAKING IN WISCONSIN.

"In point of dairy progress and education, and the quality and character of its dairy products, Wisconsin stands second to no state in the Union."

"Wisconsin probably stands in the fourth position among the large butter-producing states of the Union, and New York alone is ahead in the production of cheese."

The above two statements in a daily paper, one credited to ex-Governor Hoard and the other to Commissioner Adams, attracted my attention and aroused my curiosity. I determined to investigate, in the interest of the reading public, and the following is the result:

The statements contain a whole truth, and the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association is mainly responsible for so fine a state of things. It was organized as early as 1872, with but seven members, but it has grown in numbers and importance until to-day it is a power in the state. It holds its meetings here and there all over the state. It scatters reports of every important matter discussed, and pamphlets containing every sort of information of value to the farmer, thereby arousing their interest in dairying. It also sends out instructors, the value of whose labors cannot be computed.

In many parts of the state the land had become so worn out and run down that the farmer's struggle for existence had become a losing game. Once convinced that there was more profit in dairying than "cropping," they began buying cows and seeding down the land for pasture. Soon it became apparent that a good cow was more profitable than a poor one, and improved stock became a hobby. Good cows, good

feed and improved methods of manufacturing butter and cheese have brought the state to where it stands to-day.

The farmers' institutes were another helpful factor. At first they were poorly attended. Slowly but surely, however, they have gained attention, until now institute day is the farmers' favorite holiday. The whole family attends and listens with the greatest interest to the discussions, while not a few take active part, and so the interest grows.

Cheese-factories and creameries are now to be found in every county save in the extreme northern part of the state, and butter-making on the farm has become almost a thing of the past. The latest report I can find says there are 951 creameries in the state, producing annually 74,653,730 pounds of butter. Of cheese-factories there are 1,571, that make 52,480,815 pounds of cheese each year.

In a protracted tour through the southern and eastern part of the state it was found that the Babcock test is used in nearly every factory where the milk is purchased of the farmer. By this test he receives payment according to quality instead of quantity, as formerly. This of itself leads to the weeding out of worthless cows and the introduction of improved stock. Think how aggravating it used to be for a farmer to receive no more for his rich, yellow, Jersey milk than his neighbor did for the watery looking production of his scrub cow.

In many counties full-cream cheese is made in four sizes—"Cheddars," "Twins," "Daisies" and "Young Americas," ranging in weight from sixty pounds down to ten. Green county leads the state in both quality and quantity, but nearly all of its production is in the form of fancy cheese. Nearly every pound made is either Swiss, limburger or brickbat. This cheese requires more skill than the common varieties, and the workmen are nearly all well-trained, intelligent cheese-makers from the Alps of Switzerland. The butter extracted from the whey, after making Swiss cheese, is said to be a profitable part of the business. It is used largely in the making of pastry, and is surprisingly rich and well flavored.

"Wisconsin dairy laws are very strong," to quote Commissioner Adams, "and the state stands well in the matter of legislation." The law-makers were quick to see that the best interests of the state were involved in the dairy business, and everything has been done to forward that interest. A few years ago a big fight was made against the production of "filled cheese." "Filled cheese is cheese made of skim-milk and neutral oil (lard) in imitation of full-cream cheese." In 1894 two hundred factories in Wisconsin were making the damaging imitation, and the cheese industry throughout the state suffered thereby. In 1896 it was wisely legislated out of existence, and its production pronounced a punishable misdemeanor.

In conclusion, it might be well to say a few things about Mr. Hoard, whose name has become a household word among the farmers, as one of their best and truest friends. He came to Wisconsin well versed in butter and cheese making many years ago, when agricultural interests were in a deplorable condition. Intelligent and far-sighted, he saw dairying was to be the salvation of the farmer. He talked it to all within hearing, started a paper and talked through that to thousands he could not otherwise reach. In the meantime he began dairying on his own responsibility, and to-day the "model creamery of the world" is his possession. It is located at Fort Atkinson, and "leads the world in elegance of finish." The machinery is all "nickel-plated, and operated by electricity; the walls of the factory-room are marble and tile; the vats are lined with porcelain or nickel; the floors are cement, and all tables and benches are marble."

RYE JOHNSON.

FARM AND FIRESIDE

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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Fertilizers for Fruit Crops. The discussions at the last meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society (Rochester, January 26 and 27, 1898) gave a terribly black eye to the fertilizer men. Telltale results were reported by fruit-growers, and significant admissions made by agricultural chemists. To help the fertilizer men out of the hole, I can only warn against giving to these special observations too wide an application, and I do this, although these same fertilizer men, through their special organ, "The American Fertilizer," have recently attacked me, with much renown but little ability, in an attempt (futile, I hope) to discredit before the general buyer of fertilizers the new "heresies" of the superiority of barn-yard manure, clover and tillage over fertilizers, of the use of standard chemicals and of home-mixing.

Minerals in the Orchard. For some years we have taken a good deal of comfort in the notion that the mineral plant-foods, especially potash, were the great needs of our orchards, and the key to success in fruit-growing. Are more modern researches to knock the props from under our pet theories? Let me tell the story. Mr. Willis T. Mann, of my own county (Niagara), had for a number of years made extensive experiments in applying muriate of potash (two hundred pounds an acre each year), with a proportionate quantity of bone-meal the first year, and acid phosphate in succeeding years, to portions of his apple and pear orchards, in such a manner as to give a chance for comparing the yield and quality of different varieties on the treated and untreated plots. Thorough tillage was given at the same time to all portions, and while Mr. Mann secured good crops right along, he could see no difference between the crops in the rows that had the mineral fertilizers and in those that were left without. Tillage and spraying seemed to be the great factors that made the fruit and "painted the cheeks of the apples."

Wood-ashes for Fruits. The dealers in ashes also got their set-back. Prof. Beach, of the New York experiment station,

at Geneva, told that he had made a series of experiments for the purpose of discovering whether the annual applications of wood-ashes would have a tendency to prevent or lessen scab on apple-trees. One hundred pounds of ashes were applied each tree to nearly one half of an old and rather run-down orchard. The outcome, for a period of four or five years, is that there was rather more scab on the treated trees than on those not treated, and incidentally he found that the crops were not increased in quantity, nor materially improved in quality, by the application of the ashes. On the other hand, thorough tillage and spraying had done wonders in an adjoining orchard. Wonderful to relate, and showing what little reliance we can place in the skill of the analyzing chemist, and in the acuteness of his methods and devices, Prof. Beach reported the failure of attempts to discover, by analysis, any difference whatever in the amounts of potash found in soil, which, during a period of five consecutive years, had received an application of 1,000 pounds of actual potash an acre, and in that which had received no potash. A number of the prominent fruit-growers present took this opportunity to speak slightly of wood-ashes, and to tell of the insignificant results secured by their use. Not a single voice was heard in defense of ashes. Verily, wood-ashes, this former pet of the fruit-grower, was stabbed right in house of its friends. The epitaph found on the tombstone of the little baby might do for potash, "If so soon I am done for, what was I begun for?"

A Significant Admission. Dr. L. L. Van Slyke, the chemist of the New York state experiment station, at Geneva, concluded his lecture on "Plant-food Demands in Fruit-growing" by the admission that "the problem of applying plant-foods in the most economical manner has not yet been completely solved." He had shown that it is an easy task to figure out, from analyses, what amount of plant-foods a given crop removes from the soil. A table of analyses, a pencil and paper are all that we need to figure the problem out for ourselves. The soil itself, with the plant-foods that it contains, is the unknown quantity. The chemist can help us very little in this respect. What plant-foods are in the soil in readiness for use by our cultivated plants? What outside applications are needed? Here is the weak spot in all our theories. In fruit-growing, for instance, the needs of the crop are, approximately, one part phosphoric acid, four parts nitrogen and four parts potash. Yet the average fertilizer for fruits contains one part nitrogen, three parts phosphoric acid and four parts potash—a proportion based on the assertion that the plant-foods in the soil will supply the deficiencies. Dr. Van Slyke truthfully says that this is mere guesswork, and that it is hard to lay down rigid rules. The fertilizer men did not seem to like it, when on former occasions I made, and repeated time and again, the statements that (1) I knew more about the needs of my particular soil (and all farmers could and should know more about the needs of their soils) than the fertilizer men were able to tell us; (2) that the business of compounding fertilizers was based on mere guesswork, and, therefore, (3) that it is simply a piece of absurdity and charlatanism to make and offer special manures for special crops, such as special potato manures, special onion manures, special cabbage manures, etc.

Questioning the Soil. The soil-tiller's main guide in solving all these problems must be what Prof. I. P. Roberts, of Cornell, calls "questioning the soil," and "feeding it spoon-victuals." As a parallel and illustration he told how he "questioned his cows" to find out what ration they needed. They were fed a presumably full ration. Then he had another quart of bran added for each cow. The result in the milk-pail showed that the cows paid for this extra quart at the rate of \$40 a ton. He had another quart added each cow, and after similar results still another, etc., until each cow received four quarts of bran more than what was before thought to be all they needed. And so with the soil. Try a little nitrogen, or a little potash, or a little phosphoric acid, or a combination of these, on little plots of ground, and note the effect, and then apply what seems to be needed. But if we wish to do that most economically, what else can we do but use the standard chemicals? If the soil needs potash alone, why go further than apply muriate of potash, possibly wood-ashes, if we can

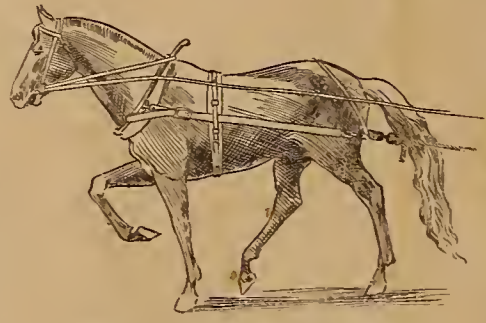
get them cheap enough? If phosphoric acid alone is needed, what would be simpler and cheaper than to use dissolved rock? Or for nitrogen alone, why use anything but nitrate of soda, possibly blood, cotton-seed meal, etc., or clover? And so with the various combinations. Why not make our own mixtures according to our own special needs?

No Hasty Inferences. Finally I wish to say a good word for the fertilizer trade. Mr. Mann's experiments with minerals, and Prof. Beach's lack of results from ashes, should not lead us into the error of thinking that fertilizers and wood-ashes are no good. The truth is that most of the clay loams at Geneva, as well as in Niagara county, are well supplied with mineral plant-foods, especially potash—sufficiently so to grow good trees and tree-fruits without outside applications. But there are others. There are soils on which we cannot hope to grow good tree or vine fruits without the use of plant-foods. And there are other crops, too. We know that to grow big crops of vegetables, and corn, especially for silage, etc., we must apply plenty of manures of one kind or other, or of various kinds. In short, there is a common-sense middle ground. We must know what we are doing, and we cannot know unless we ask the soil. It will not do, Mr. Mann said, to assume that the orchard needs feeding, then make heavy applications of fertilizers, and if a good crop should follow, to give the credit to the fertilizer. Possibly the check-rows (where no applications were made) would have given just as good crops, as was the case in his experiment. We cannot afford to buy and use plant-foods in unlimited quantities without knowing for a certainty that they are needed. And if they are needed, we want to know just exactly what to buy and use. There is one sure indication of sufficient quantities of mineral plant-foods in the soil—that is a strong growth of clover. This can be secured on almost any of our lands here, and if we make proper use of clover rotation, or clover as a cover-crop, we can grow fruits, grains, or whatever crops we wish, without applications of purchased plant-foods.

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Sowing Grass-seed. J. F. M., Indiana, wants to know what I think about sowing grass-seed on a snow. I tried it one season, and that one experiment was sufficient to satisfy me. The snow was about two inches in depth, and was all gone by noon, and there lay the seed on the surface of the ground. Some-



HITCHING HORSE TO HAY-FORK.

thing over a week elapsed before a rain came and covered that seed, and while it lay exposed thousands of sparrows and snowbirds feasted on it daily. I am satisfied that not half of what I sowed ever grew.

Careful observation has satisfied me that it is not a good plan to sow grass-seed on snow, even if it is convenient to do so. If the grass-seed is to be sown on winter wheat, it should, if possible, be sown when the bare ground is crusted by a sharp freeze in the early spring. Then the surface is "honeycombed"—raised up somewhat and roughened—and the seed fall into all the little interstices opened by the frosts, and when the soil thaws all of the seed is covered. Some seasons it is not possible to take advantage of such a favorable time, and then it is best to wait until the surface is dried rapidly by sun and wind, when almost every square inch will be cracked and checked. This usually happens in early spring just a day or so before a storm, and if the seed is sown then, most of it will fall into these little cracks and checks and be covered by the first rain that falls.

If a good stand of grass is the chief thing desired, it can be secured nine times out of ten by plowing the land early as possible and seeding lightly to oats and heavy to

grass. About one bushel of oats to the acre is sufficient, and the grass-seed should be sown immediately after the final harrowing. The oats will make excellent hay if cut when in the milk, and this early cutting will assure a good stand of grass. When the grass gets a fair start in the spring, and the oats are cut in the milk, we have some splendid fall pasture for milk-cows or young stock; but it should not be grazed too closely if a full crop of hay is desired the following year.

I believe that fully one half of the failures to secure a good stand of grass are the result of not properly covering the seed. I have seen clover-seed that had been sown in March still lying on the ground unsprouted in May. I have always contended that it pays to prepare the land for grass-seed as thoroughly as for any other crop, and I am satisfied that all who experiment along this line will come to the same conclusion. If the seed is sown on well-prepared soil a good stand is almost assured. If it is simply thrown on a hard surface the chances are that the result will be disappointment.

Spring Plowing. About this time of the year two or three warm

spring-like days is apt to arouse the enthusiasm of the young farmer to a high pitch, and he fairly aches to "begin business." Be careful about being too previous, especially in plowing for corn. Some farmers have a great love for getting ahead of everybody in the neighborhood. Don't be governed by their example. It is not early farming, but thorough, scientific farming that wins. The man who rushes his work simply to get ahead of his neighbors is not a farmer, but a crank. The scientific, successful farmer is guided by conditions; he plows when the soil is ready—when it will crumble as the plow turns it—and he aims to conduct all of his farming operations so as to obtain the very best results, regardless of what his neighbors are doing. Careful study, close watching and prompt action make the successful farmer. Have everything—animals, tools and seeds—in readiness for the occasion when it comes, then you can hustle to your heart's content.

March Pigs. Doubtless there will be a large number of pigs farrowed this month, as it is generally conceded that March pigs are the most profitable to raise. The best authorities are unanimous in the opinion that corn alone is not a good food for breeding sows. Vegetables of any kind cooked with bran and shorts are excellent, as also is good clover hay, cut short and steamed soft. Corn is too heating and constipating, causing feverishness and sometimes entirely preventing the formation of milk. Sows fed on corn have a strong tendency to cannibalism, and often destroy their litters.

Sows farrowing this month should be provided with pens closely sided and well roofed. Six by eight, or eight by eight feet is large enough, and they should open into a yard on the sunny side, so that the pigs can run out as they wish. When sows are placed in these pens only a handful of bedding should be given them. When they have a large quantity they make deep beds and often smother the pigs. Some allow no bedding at all, but many successful swine-breeders think it best to give a little, because it is natural for a sow to form a nest.

Raising Colts. A. W., Missouri, wants to know if it will pay to begin raising colts again. It always has paid, and always will pay to raise first-class horses, but it won't pay to raise scrubs now, or hereafter. If A. W. has one or more good, strong, fairly heavy mares, it will pay him well to breed them to a good thoroughbred horse, draft or coach. Don't breed to a "grade" animal of any sort. Breeding to grade animals has stocked the country with scrubs. Breed to thoroughbreds—not racers, but draft or coach, if you want an animal that will sell for a good price.

FRED GRUNDY.

HITCHING HORSE TO HAY-FORK.

The accompanying cut shows the plan of hitching a horse to a hay-fork used by Mr. Joseph Walker. He says: "Put the hip-straps in the singletree-hooks; then hook the tugs, and shorten them so that the singletree comes up close to the horse. Use a swivel-hook on the rope to hook to the singletree, so the rope cannot get twisted."

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

FARMERS' CLUBS.—In theory, country life is delightful. The poet and the politician rave and prate about its joys. In practice, rural life fails to satisfy a considerable proportion of farmers and their wives and a much larger proportion of the young people. I am led to believe that the dissatisfaction is due oftentimes merely to social and intellectual starvation. This statement may seem rash and harsh, but the writer makes it from the point of view of a farmer who has had experience and wide opportunities of observation. Dissatisfaction often finds its real cause in a craving for closer touch with the world. We are social beings, and the usual isolation of farm lives causes chafing among the young and old. The best cure is the farmers' club or other organization, when it is formed in the right way and put to the right use.

ONE OBJECT OF THE CLUB.—We have all manner of organizations to-day having every conceivable purpose. My plea is for such as can meet the needs of those who have too little social and intellectual enjoyment. With such ends in view the membership is a prime consideration. A particular club should draw together those

causes it to get very hard. If ruts form during wet weather later in the season, they should be filled with harrow and drag or road-grader. In this way a hard road-bed is secured at half the cost of making one when the roadsides are dry and hard. The drainage of side ditches should be perfect. Under such conditions I know by experience that a dressing of gravel, crushed stone or other such material, six inches deep and seven feet wide, makes a very satisfactory road, and the expense is only a few hundred dollars a mile. We need cheap, good roads. Begin such work this spring.

PLANT TREES.—You and I, my friend, have been thinking too much about "getting rich." Our business of farming is not one that gives great riches nowadays. But we farmers can make life worth living just the same. We want a better social and intellectual life right in our neighborhood; we want better roads by applying our tax intelligently—not by going into debt for expensive highways—and we want to make those farm-homes of ours as desirable as possible without heavy expense. In securing this last object nothing assists more than trees, and the coming month is the one for setting them. First come the shade-trees—a clump of them in two or three spots near the house. Get some forest varieties and one or more rare trees. Next come the fruit-trees. They cost only

the smaller one near the corner B. Right in the wettest place of the larger one we dug a well six feet deep, and stoned it up in the usual way, which we connected by a blind ditch two feet deep with the other wet place at B. We expected that the well would receive its supply by draining its own surroundings, and in addition would be supplied by the blind ditch from circle 2. The well has been full of water ever since it was dug, last fall, and the field dry enough to allow the passing of a team anywhere. On the lower side, nearly opposite the supply ditch, the well has an outlet, a blind ditch like the former, but somewhat larger and six inches deeper. This prevents the water in the well from rising any higher and backing into the supply ditch, and at the same time acts as drainage for the land below. Just opposite the outlet is the ditch for the pipe, which enters into the pump well at D. It is, according to the unevenness of the ground surface, from two to three feet deep, and toward the upper end gradually deepens to four and one half feet, the depth of the pump well. The latter is simply a planked-up hole three feet square and four and one half feet deep. The distance from the pump to the supply well is one hundred and ninety feet, and there is an elevation of ten feet from the valve in the cylinder to the surface of the water in the well. The pipe, which lies in an air-chamber under a reversed trough of six-inch chestnut boards, is galvanized one and one fourth inch gas-pipe, with an elbow and a three-foot arm in the well. The pump we use is one of those deep well or anti-freeze pumps, with the cylinder four and one half feet in the ground to prevent its freezing. It acts in this case like any common cistern or suction pump. Right above the cylinder is a small faucet soldered into the pipe, which is worked by a rod from above the platform. The operator is thus at liberty to let the water out of the pump or not, just as circumstances may require. I have occasionally noticed that a small pinhole is filed into the pipe, below the frost-line, to let the water out. I would not have the water squirt constantly out of the pipe when the pump is in operation, neither would I want a pump to be emptied when it is not necessary. The waste water can be caught in a bucket setting in the pump well beside the cylinder. Through a trap-door, formed by part of the platform, the bucket can be occasionally emptied.

To make a long-distance pump do satisfactory work at all times, the whole length of the pipe, as well as the cylinder, must be kept full of water; then it is ready to work almost at the first stroke of the handle. If the valve in the cylinder is airtight it will hold the water in the pipe, but the least little leak in valve or pipe will make a failure in this respect unless there is a check-valve at the lower end of the pipe. The enlargement of the pipe in the main well contains a valve.

The pump with its combinations as above described works as well and requires no more power than a common cistern-pump of the same depth, and it is a success.

As an additional explanation of the illustration I would say that in making the sketch the proper proportions of sizes, dimensions and distances have not been given.

G. C. GREINER.

ROADSIDE PLANTING OF FRUIT-TREES.

A paper bearing the above title was recently read before a meeting of the Clark County (Ohio) Horticultural Society, by Mr. Isaac Freeman. Giving as it does, the actual, profitable experience of a practical man regarding a matter but little practiced, I give a summary of the paper for the benefit of FARM AND FIRESIDE readers.

The first advantage found in planting trees along the roadside is that the ground has already been drained by the formation of roadside ditches in grading the road-bed.

A second important advantage is the fertility of the soil. Very few roadside fence-rows have ever been cropped; so they possess their virgin fertility. Many crops of grass have rotted upon the already fertile soil, adding to its richness.

A third advantage of roadside planting is that the trees stand where they can be easily sprayed from the road. Spraying is as essential to the growing of a good crop of fruit, apples especially, as is cultivation to the growing of a good crop of corn. Besides receiving artificial spraying, the roadside trees get the dust raised by travel. This dust, settling upon the leaves and fruit, destroys many insects that prey upon them.

Upon a roadside row of apple-trees

twenty years old Mr. Freeman has had a wire fence attached for the last twelve years, without injury to the trees. His method is to attach to the trees, by means of six-inch nails, pieces of wood one and one half by two inches by three and one half feet long. Three nails are driven into each piece of wood, at the top, middle and bottom, and into the tree one and one half inches. This leaves three inches of the nail projecting, to be occupied by the strip of wood as the growing tree pushes it off. The wire fence, of course, is fastened to these wood strips. This row, containing about 100 trees, when fourteen years old, bore 218 bushels of apples, which were sold at 50 cents a bushel—\$109.

For roadside planting, holes to receive the trees should be dug thirty feet apart, three feet square and fifteen inches deep. Before setting the trees the holes should be filled to the proper depth with loose top soil, allowing the tree to stand two or three inches deeper than it did in the nursery. When trees are set where they cannot be cultivated, care should be taken to dig around them at least twice each summer for four or five years. They should also be washed once a year with a solution of soft-soap, lime and blue vitriol. To prevent mice girdling trees, place a mound of coal-ashes six inches high around each tree. For planting along the roadside or line fences one should be careful to choose varieties of trees of upright growth, and which hold their fruit until time to gather for winter. Among apples, the Maun, Rome Beauty, White Pippin, Park Spice, Ben Davis, York Imperial, Jonathan and Roxbury Russet would prove satisfactory. Where trees are grown along the edges of fields that are pastured, it is necessary to protect them. For horses, one wire is sufficient; for cattle, three or four wires are needed. Stakes will do to hold these wires in place.

Mr. Freeman has upon his farm five hundred fruit-trees, from three to twenty years old, which he values at three dollars each. Most of these trees are planted along the roadside and the line fences, and the owner believes the day is not far distant when they will bring in more net cash than the crops grown on the farm.

A. E. HUMPHREYS.

March
April
May

These are the months in which to purify your blood. The system is now in need of a good spring medicine like Hood's Sarsaparilla, and is most susceptible to the benefits to be derived from it. The blood is impure and depleted in quality. It fails to supply to the nerves and muscles the nourishment needed. That is why almost every one is afflicted in the spring with that tired, languid feeling. That is why your work is a drag, your sleep is disturbed and unrefreshing, your appetite is poor.

SPRING HUMORS,

Sores, boils and pimples which make their appearance now indicate the impure condition of the blood, and call for Hood's Sarsaparilla, the one true blood purifier.

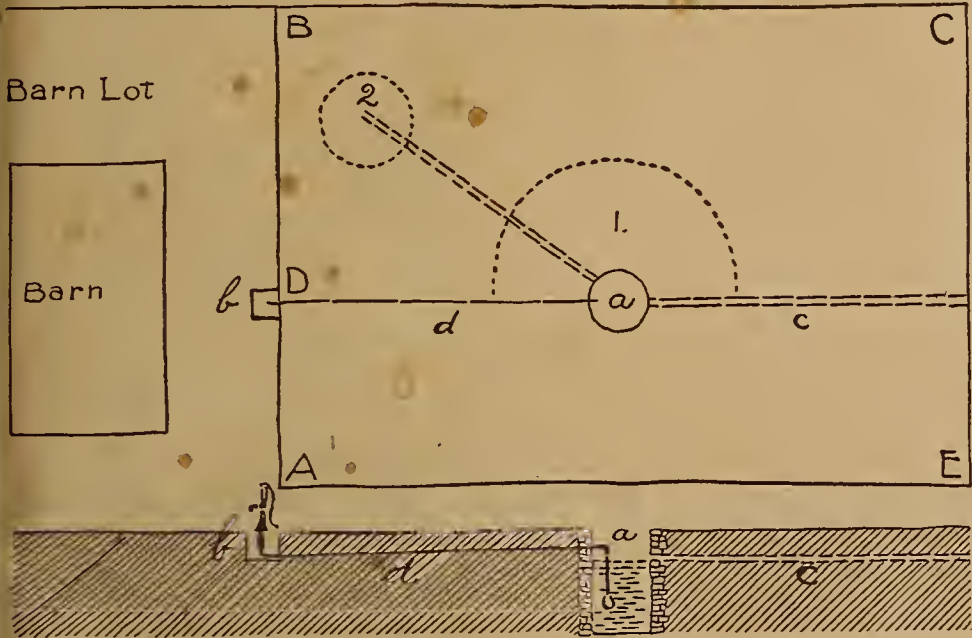
"We have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla in our family for the past few years. I have taken it for rheumatism and loss of appetite, and my husband has used it as a general blood medicine. He was troubled with sores, owing to impure blood. We have found Hood's Sarsaparilla an excellent medicine, and cheerfully recommend it." Mrs. A. J. STRICKHOLZ, 2131 Wake-man Street, Toledo, Ohio.

"We have used Hood's Sarsaparilla in our family for several years and always find it an excellent medicine. I have taken it myself for stomach trouble and a general blood purifier, and it has greatly benefited me. I can speak of Hood's Sarsaparilla in the highest terms. It always gives us a good appetite." Mrs. BARKSHIRE, 89 Broadway Street, Sandusky, Ohio.

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whose social and intellectual tastes are similar. Quite often a dozen families in a neighborhood make a sufficient membership for a successful club. The body must be a congenial one. There should then be room for other clubs composed of other congenial persons. These organizations give their members opportunities and inducements for meeting regularly and frequently, and the programs afford purpose for reading and study in preparation for essays and discussion. Scores of such clubs should exist in every county that does not have other farm organizations in every township. They would do more to enhance the pleasures of country life than any other one agency could possibly do.

THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.—The desire for social and intellectual pleasures on the part of farmers is evidenced by the increasing popularity of the institutes. In many places the public halls are too small to hold the crowds that gather for the two-days' sessions of such meetings. The best institutes are those that depend in large measure upon local talent for their success. The social feature is made a strong one, though the time in the sessions is given chiefly to practical talks on the subjects that most interest people who are engaged in farming for a livelihood. It is a business meeting, but the members prize the opportunity of meeting each other socially as much as they do the discussions of questions of interest. In most places the institutes are a great treat, largely because there are so few gatherings that have both the intellectual and social features needed by us farmers.

OUR ROADS.—That system of working the public highways is faulty which does not permit the supervisor to move early in the spring all the earth that it is proposed to move in the year. It is often a mistake to crown a road-bed, removing the earth from the sides of the roadway and dumping it in the center; but when crowing is proper, the work can be done more cheaply in the early spring than at a later time. The moving and packing of the ground when it is wet

a trifle, and add so much to the desirability of a farm-home. Get the best summer and fall varieties of apples, some cherries, pears, plums, peaches and nuts. Why not? We can make the farm pay in pleasure at small cost even if incomes do persist in remaining small.

DAVID.

DRAINING LAND AND LONG-DISTANCE PUMPING.

We have just finished a job of ditching, laying pipe and putting in a pump. The field of our operations was a wet, swampy meadow of about five acres, joining the yard of our stock, hay and grain barn. This meadow has never been plowed on account of its being too wet. With the exception of a very short time in the fall in very dry seasons, a team could not travel with any degree of comfort on some parts of it. In many places it was soft and even miry almost the year round. The mowing could be done only with great difficulty, always leaving a spot in the center from one quarter to one acre or more, according to the wet or dry season, over which the machine could not be drawn. The field has a gradual decline from the side next to the barn of about one foot to the road. Through a sort of sag, which runs from about the middle of the field to the lower end, a stream ran almost constantly, varying in volume according to the season, sometimes hardly noticeable, and other times heavy enough to run a turbine. Where this stream began, or where its source might be located, no one could tell, but it originated somewhere in the field. If the draining of the field had been our only object, the matter could have been easily accomplished—a few ditches would have done it. But we wanted to use the water at the barn.

The accompanying illustration, showing supply well, a; pump well, b; well outlet, c, and pipe ditch and pipe, d, explains the way we succeeded in accomplishing the two objects.

There seemed to be two places, indicated by the dotted circles 1 and 2, which were evidently the main sources of water; the larger one near the center of the field and

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

THE COLUMBUS GOOSEBERRY.—I have spoken a number of times in praise of the Columbus gooseberry, but I wish to repeat, for the benefit of those among our readers who may wish to set some gooseberry-bushes in their gardens, that there is not another kind (with the exception of the Chautauqua, perhaps, and this seems very much like the Columbus) which comes so near giving perfect satisfaction to the general grower as does this same Columbus. The only fault one can possibly find with it is the stiffness and number of its thorns. Mr. Carmau, of the "Rural New Yorker," two or three years ago called it "the best variety yet introduced, and apparently close to a perfect gooseberry for our climate." A year later he reported as follows: "Columbus is this season all that it was last. We have three bushes all laden—overladen—with large, smooth berries, as large as the average foreign kinds. There is not a trace of mildew upon either fruit or foliage, and Columbus seems to us this year, as last, the best variety in the market for those with whom the foreign kinds do not thrive." From Canada and some of the states west of us come similar reports. With a moderate crop, my several dozen bushes last year gave me berries of larger size than I have ever seen or grown before—veritable monsters. In short, the Columbus is the sort for me.

EARLY TOMATOES.—For many years I have been trying to find the ideal early tomato, and knowing that I had not yet what I wanted in this line, been wabbling between Early King, Early Ruby, Leader, etc., I am sorry to say that thus far I do not seem to be much nearer the solution of the problem than when I got hold of the Ruby. These sorts are very early, no doubt, but they are very poor, also; and while I can get a few ripe tomatoes from these extra early sorts a few weeks in advance of other later sorts, and at a time when the public is not fastidious or over-critical, and will pay a good price for any kind of a red tomato, yet the plants and the fruit on them are worthless for the greater part of the season, and might just as well be pulled up as soon as really good tomatoes come into the markets. People will not buy such stuff as can be grown on the Ruby and Leader during the regular season of home-grown tomatoes. Last year I was in hopes to have found the "Ideal." This was one of the upright forms of tomato—a real bush-tomato—something like the French tree-tomato or the Station, as brought out years ago by Prof. E. S. Gott, only much stronger in growth, setting fruit freely on the first blossom clusters, in the greenhouse or hot-bed, and bearing fair-sized fruit of perfect shape and good color. I am going to try this sort again if the introducer will send me a few seeds. The season last year was so abnormal that I cannot base a definite opinion on experiments and experience with tomatoes that year. Ruby and Leader, and I believe this "Ideal" (the latter an altogether different type of plant), also, will set fruit whether the ovary of the blossom is fertilized or not. Consequently, under greenhouse conditions, especially during winter and very early spring when there is little sunshine, and perhaps an atmosphere rather too moist for the proper ripening and distribution of pollen, fruits will form freely on these plants, but will be small and seedless. Of course, it can be only a question of time when a really good tomato will be developed from one of these early sorts.

THE LIMA BEANS.—The last three or four years' experience has very thoroughly cured me of my earlier partiality for the bush form of Lima bean. One of my correspondents asked me why his Burpee's Bush Limas bloom freely, but do not fill well. I don't know why that is so, but to judge from my own experience with them I am inclined to think it is a fact that these beans are shy bearers. At least, I find the pole Limas much more certain to give me a good yield of beans than the big bush forms. Henderson's Small Lima (or Sieva) is really the only variety of bush-bean of that class that can be depended upon on my grounds for a good yield. One of my friends writes me that he had Burpee's Bush Lima and the Stringless Green Pod

bush-bean side by side last year. Now he hesitates to use the seed of these two kinds to plant, for fear that they might have become mixed. There is very little danger of any such thing. I have tried my best to hybridize bush Limas and bush Sievas and pole Limas and other pole-beans by planting mixed lots in same row, for years, but have invariably failed. I have never seen even a sign of mixture between Limas and other beans, and would use seed of a Lima and of any other form of bean with perfect confidence in their purity, no matter how closely they had been grown together.

EARLIEST POTATOES.—I am frequently asked to name the best varieties of very early potatoes. We surely have a large number of early potatoes, mostly of the Early Rose or Beauty of Hebron types. The fact is, we have so many of them that it is impossible for any one who does not make very extensive tests of new varieties, year after year, to say which of all these sorts are most worthy of general planting, especially since almost each kind will do best on certain soils and perhaps certain management. As for myself, I now plant none of these "early" sorts, simply because they are not as early as I wish to have my early potatoes. For this reason I still stick to my old favorite, the Early Ohio. This is really extra early, and I doubt whether the new Bovee and Early Andes sorts, sent out recently as very early ones, can compare with the Ohio as to earliness, although I know them to be good varieties. The Early Ohio, on rich, moist soil, is often quite productive, and I like the quality. The tubers cook quickly, and usually break all to pieces if allowed to cook "done." Whether this be a sign that the tuber has an unusual percentage of starch, or whether it may show that it is deficient in more important food elements (albumen), I, for my part, like a white and mealy potato, and therefore think highly of the Ohio as a table sort. If any one can tell me where to get a better sort, even if no earlier than the Ohio, I shall be under great obligation for the information.

GROWING FIELD-BEANS.—Again I have an inquiry for information on the culture of field-beans—best variety, amount of average crop, etc. I do wish somebody who has the experience would write a treatise on the culture of field-beans. In the meantime, I will solicit contributions on this subject from the readers of FARM AND FIRESIDE who have made a business of growing beans. T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Plum-trees for Hen-yards.—A. E. C., McDonald, Pa. I think you will probably be best satisfied if you plant Lombard and Abundance plums in your hen-yards. You can get these varieties from any of the Rochester, New York, nurserymen, or perhaps nearer home. You had probably better ask some good fruit-grower living in your vicinity as to this latter point.

Grafting Chestnuts.—M. E. R., Lancaster county, Pa. The scions of the chestnut should be cut in the spring when you are ready to use them. They should be grafted before growth has hardly started in the spring. I do not think it desirable to work stocks over one inch in diameter. If much larger I should prefer to cut them down and graft on the sprouts the following season.

Clover in Vineyards.—A. L. G., Hopedale, Ind. The land between the rows in vineyards should be kept cultivated. In some cases it might be desirable to occasionally seed down to clover and break up the sod the next year in order to improve the quality of the land; but this is seldom desirable, and clover and other grass-like crops are out of place around grape-vines, where the best results are wanted. However, in such a case as yours, where one thinks he must have weeds or clover, I think the clover is preferable, but that it should be broken up occasionally. I think you will be best satisfied with medium red clover.

Spraying Grape-vines.—W. D., Catonsville, Md. In the spring before the buds swell spray with a solution of sulphate of copper, one pound to twenty-five gallons of water; but this must not be used after the buds open. When first leaves are half grown spray with Bordeaux mixture, and if the flea-beetle is troublesome add a little Paris green to it. As soon as fruit has set use Bordeaux mixture again, and repeat again in ten to fourteen days. If disease is still present apply a solution of ammoniacal carbonate of copper, since

the use of Bordeaux mixture at that time is liable to leave spots that will not get washed off the fruit, and will make it look bad and unsalable. The most important sprayings are the first two, but thorough work is very important and pays well where the grape is troubled with rot and mildew. A good formula for Bordeaux mixture is copper sulphate, four pounds; fresh lime (not slaked), three pounds; water, forty gallons. Be sure and strain the mixture through a cloth (gunny-sack) or very fine sieve before using.

Sawdust Mulch for Strawberries.—S. A. N., Litchfield, Minn. Sawdust acts all right as a mulch around strawberry-plants so long as it is on top of the ground, but it gets mixed with the soil and may then be quite injurious. On this account I would not use it, but if any sawdust at all is used it should be that from hardwood, as it is not nearly so liable to cause trouble as that from the pines and spruces. A better mulch would be swale hay that had no weed-seeds in it, or other similar material free from weed-seeds.

Grapes—Roses.—J. A. G., Baltimore, Md. For white grapes, plant Moore's Diamond and Niagara; for red, plant Brighton and Woodruff Red; for purple fruit, plant Concord, Worden and Campbell's Early. For monthly roses try Hermosa, Mrs. DeGraw, Souvenir de la Malmaison, La France, Duchess of Albany, Madame Caroline Testout, Meteor. These should have a little protection in the shape of some mulch put around them in autumn, but are nearly hardy in your section. If you can give more protection you would do well to plant Bon Silene, Bride, Catherine Mermet, Safrano and Perle des Jardine.

Dwarf Pears—Pruning the Almond—Root-grafting.—F. E. M., Tenino, Washington. If the pear is grafted on the common quince it makes a dwarf tree that bears very early. If such trees have the union set deep they will, after several years, produce roots from the scion and finally make trees of quite large size, otherwise they remain dwarf. The flowering almond should be pruned, if needed, just as it gets out of flower. It will stand the pruning very well. Root-grafting of the apple is generally done in the house in the winter. It consists of inserting the scion in the root and then covering the union with waxed cloth or paper. The roots for this purpose are one or two year old seedlings that are dug in the fall and are kept packed in sand or sawdust in a cold cellar or cave over winter. The scions and the graft are also packed in the same way. The grafts are planted out in the spring, leaving just one bud above the surface of the ground, about six inches apart in rows three feet apart. Plums may be grafted in about the same way, but seldom as successfully as apples. In the case of plums it is better to bud in August or graft the roots in the ground (if they are small) early in the spring, using scions freshly cut from the trees; for if plum scions, of many varieties, are cut in the autumn and kept over winter, as is usually recommended for apple scions, they frequently lose their buds and will not grow, even though the bark is fresh and green.

Rebudding Peach Stocks—Best Crop for Old Orchard.—W. C., Alton, Ill. In reply to your question about peach-trees which were budded last autumn and failed on account of dry weather, I will say that, as a rule, it does not pay to carry over old peach stocks for budding the second year. But if this is to be done the method of procedure should consist in cutting them back close to the top of the ground on the stocks early in the spring. They will then sprout, and all the sprouts but one should then be rubbed off, and then should be treated exactly the same as you would treat young seedlings, and should be budded in August in the same manner. June budding would not be helpful in this case, which consists in budding the stocks in June with buds of the same season's growth, and then starting the buds into growth as soon as it has grown fast to the stock. In order to obtain buds large enough for inserting into the stocks it is customary to pinch the young growth of the scions, which will cause them to fill out their buds so that they will be of large enough size for working. While it would be possible, perhaps, to carry some peach scions along in the greenhouse until the peach-trees were in full life and then insert them, yet it is impracticable, and there is little chance of their being grown successfully. Neither is there much chance of them being grafted in the spring to good advantage, at least in the northern states. It is sometimes done in California and the southern states. In regard to your question as to the value of field peas and beans for old orchards, these crops do not furnish much of anything to the land, if the tops are cut off and made into hay. If the soil is in good condition your best plan would probably be to break the orchard up and cultivate it for a year or two, putting it in early potatoes, corn or similar crop, using stable or other fertilizer, and then seed down in clover for two years, which would leave the soil in very good condition. A very excellent crop to use in your location for old orchards, especially if there is danger of the land being bare in the latter part of the summer, is to seed the land with cow-peas, which should be plowed under in the autumn. I also think that buckwheat is a most excellent crop for an orchard cover-crop. It could be sown about the first of July, and protect the soil and keeps it moist. It should, however, be plowed in about the time it has reached its second growth.

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STREET TREES.

THIS subject divides itself into (1) What are street trees for? (2) How should they be planted? (3) How to care for them after they are planted? (4) What varieties should be selected?

It would seem that the answer to the first question would be easily given by any one, that trees are for the purpose of shading the people who walk our streets. But I am inclined to think that most land-owners place above this object the growing of handsome individual trees, and do not hesitate to cut where it will sacrifice shade if it seems probable that the trees themselves will grow more symmetrical. This is a mistake. Trees in the highway should stand much closer than when planted for lawn purposes, and the shade should be sufficiently dense to protect not only human beings, but animals. The middle of the street, where the horse travels, is seldom protected from the July sun. The second object of our highway trees is to assist in drying the thoroughfare. Sir John Lawes tells us that an acre of harley will take up one thousand tons of water in two days. The office of the tree is to take up the moisture rapidly, and purify it by absorbing the poison. The sun will lift up moisture more rapidly than trees; but the sun does not extract the poison. It is therefore a mistake to propose the cutting down of street trees, in order to hasten the drying of the streets. If the streets are wet, improved drainage is needed. The third object of the tree in the highway is to cultivate the sense of the beautiful. From this standpoint alone it is desirable to secure trees symmetrically developed. Nor need this be overlooked, provided we consider it while planting.

How ought street trees be planted? They should be planted far enough apart to allow them full chance of development without after-cutting. They should be mulched immediately and staked, and if exposed to the approach of animals they should also be boxed.

In answer to the question, how to care for street trees? I should say that the chief difficulty with our highway trees is that they receive too much care. They are scraped and trimmed, and constantly meddled with, until they sicken and die. Let them alone. The height of the limbs should be determined when they are quite young, and no large limbs removed later, in order to lift the branches. But especially do not undertake the work of cutting out every other tree in the row. The office of leaves is not primarily to shade human beings, but to shade the trees themselves. When you have removed a large part of the lower limbs or have let the sun in by cutting out every other tree, you have made an exposure which the tree's bark cannot endure. Dead spots will soon be formed; the borer will enter; and, when the tree is killed, you will blame the insects. The blame is your own. Of all the trees the sugar-maple is most susceptible to damage from this cause.

What varieties of trees are most suitable for American highways? I shall differ here from nearly all planters, by urging the claims of the linden above that of the elm. Wherever the linden thrives I would plant it, because it is a thoroughly healthy tree, a superb bee-feeder, most beautiful in blossom, superb in shade, and it is not likely to be cut down by those who will sacrifice a tree for a few cords of wood. In many sections the elm has a claim hardly surpassed by any. It is hardy, endures neglect and spreads its shade over a vast space. Probably the oaks deserve to be ranked next to these; while the ash and the hickory come close after. Of course, the hard maple should stand in high favor, if it can be grown successfully. The use of nut-trees and fruit-trees can be commended for very many localities. I can point you to towns where the sweet cherries and apples grow with abundant crops along the highway, and the bulk of the fruit does not always fall to the tramp or traveler. The street must be considered as a whole. The planting should go with the improvement of the road-bed and drainage. Where the stock law is thoroughly enforced it is not necessary to adhere to the old custom of formal rows of trees. The rule should be to plant our lawn down to the driveway with trees and shrubbery, so that a park-like aspect may be presented throughout the whole country.

E. P. POWELL.

SAN JOSE DISCLAIMS THE "SAN JOSE SCALE."

Undoubtedly San Jose has suffered materially from the wide ill-fame of the so-called and mis-called "San Jose scale," which recently has been the subject of international correspondence between the governments of Washington and Berlin. "It has," says a San Jose letter, "been inferred that San Jose was the birthplace of the dreaded scale, and that fruit-trees generally in this section have been affected by it. As a matter of fact, the scale in this county has been practically stamped out of existence; and in regard to the name, it was foisted upon San Jose because the first efforts to eradicate it were made here. The scale, or shield-louse, was imported to California from Tasmania over twenty years ago, and originally came from Europe. It had a healthy existence in the world long before there were any fruit-trees in this county. Long before the name 'San Jose' was attached to it it was known among entomologists as *Aspidiotus perniciosus*, and may be found in the works of Canstock. A treatise on the scale, giving its history, etc., was published in 1881, by D. C. Vestal and Dr. S. F. Chapin, two well-known orchardists of this city, under the auspices of the State Horticultural Commission."—Pacific Rural Press.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM TENNESSEE.—The remarkable increase of immigration from the northern states to the South, and particularly to this part of Tennessee—Fayette county—during the past three or four years gives it the appearance of a newly discovered Eldorado. This county was first settled in 1830 by slave-owners from North Carolina and Virginia; and previous to the war was divided into large tracts of land called "plantations," some of which contained many thousand acres. Cotton was their main crop, selling readily at from fifteen to eighteen cents a pound. The war came and left the planters "land-poor," and since cotton has reached the low price of four and one half cents a pound, it cannot be raised at a profit. Since the first lot of northern people bought land and settled here four years ago, the demand for smaller tracts of land has become so great that many of the large plantations have been cut up into tracts of from eighty to three hundred and twenty acres, and are being bought by well-to-do farmers from the northern states. All of the northern part of Fayette county has been settled by thrifty northern men, and everywhere can be seen new residences, built after northern style, also good barns and outbuildings. There has just been completed a handsome school-house, and the teacher is a northern man, one who has lately come south and bought a farm near by. I think I can count in one neighborhood over seventy families of northern people. I was talking with a northern gentleman, the other day, and he told me that he had sold his farm at a good profit and would buy another. I also talked with his wife, and she is carried away with her southern home. She said she can spend much of her time, as she wishes, out of doors, hot summer and winter, and she would not live in the North again. The southern people use the smallest tools, and it would make a northern man laugh to see them plowing land with a small mule and a little plow. What will grow here? I answer: cotton, corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, peas, beans, and anything and everything, except oranges and bananas. I never saw a finer fruit country. All kinds of fruits do well and grow to perfection. I never saw such peaches as we had last season. This is a fine apple country, and the people are planting out a great many trees. When you reflect upon it that this is as far south as apples do well, you can see at once how much earlier apples from west Tennessee can be put on the market than from elsewhere. Good farms can be bought at from \$8 to \$20 an acre on easy terms.

Somerville, Tennessee. H. S. S.

FROM NEBRASKA.—Along the North and Middle Loup valleys is found the paradise of the cattle man. Its vast prairies of numerous varieties of grasses, and its abundant supply of fresh water, are very inviting to the man who desires to go into the cattle business. One with small means need not spend the half he has to fix up for winter, or hire sufficient force to put up hay enough to winter his stock. The range is free summer and winter. Stock do well on the range without laborous hay-feeding, though there are occasional periods when grass is covered with snow, which remains but for a few days. The "eye-to-business" stockman, however, puts up hay, shelter and otherwise prepares for bad weather, that his stock need not necessarily rough it through the stormy weather. The climate is delightful. For sheep and horses there are the same advantages.

W. E. S. Custer County, Neb.

FROM VIRGINIA.—I am located thirty-three miles west of Richmond near the C. & O. railroad, which runs along the James river. The land is rolling. The soil is a chocolate loam, with deep red subsoil, and is very productive.

Of course, we have plenty of poor land, but it is easily improved. All kinds of crops do well. There is plenty of good running water and natural grass, making this a good country for cattle and sheep. Large flocks of sheep are kept by some farmers. On account of dry weather last fall some wheat was sown as late as November 15th, but it looks fine now. Farmers have sold their last year's tobacco lately for good prices, and a large acreage will be planted this season. The sugar-beet craze is here. A factory will be built at Richmond, if the farmers will promise to raise enough beets. A large number of northern families are here. The climate is good, the seasons are long, land is cheap and the taxes are low. Corn-plowing begins the first of April, and potatoes are planted earlier. Hay-making begins June 1st; wheat-harvest, June 16th, and corn-cutting, August 15th. Fall oats are sown September 15th, and wheat, October 1st. Frost generally appears from October 10th to 25th.

Irvin, Va.

H. D. C.

FROM ARKANSAS.—Benton county is called the land of the big red apple. The raising of fruit is the principal industry in this part of the state. Hundreds of car-loads of small fruit were shipped from this county last summer. One thousand and seventy-two car-loads of apples were shipped from Benton county last fall. There is no better country than Benton county for health and for an abundance of pure spring-water. We have two rivers, the White and the Illinois, both clear, cold streams, with plenty of fish in them. We have plenty of schools and colleges here. Our people are industrious and law-abiding; the natives are sociable and kind to an extreme degree. This is a good stock country. The crowning feature of this county is its apple orchards—orchards everywhere. Last fall the orchards were breaking down with fruit, worth on the ground from forty to sixty cents a bushel. Some orchards yielded several thousand bushels. Apples were plentiful and prices high. It was a veritable Klondike for those having orchards. Land is cheap here, ranging from \$5 for raw land to from \$10 to \$30 for improved farms.

J. B. P.

Decatur, Ark.

FROM NEBRASKA.—Furnas county, Nebraska, is in the southern tier, two hundred and fifty miles west of the Missouri river. Three streams of water pass through it from west to east—the Republican river, Beaver creek and the Sappa. The B. & M. R. railroad has two lines passing through our county, one of them the main line to Denver, Colorado. This is the banner county for alfalfa, corn, cattle and hogs. There are now feeding here about 10,000 cattle, 30,000 hogs and 12,000 sheep. We are midway between the cattle-ranges and the Omaha and Kansas City markets. Our soil is rich and the climate mild. We are in a sheltered locality never yet swept by a tornado. There is not an acre of Government land here for entry, but farms can be bought at from \$10 to \$40 an acre. I am not a real estate agent, but a farmer who tills the soil.

E. M.

Wilsonville, Neb.

FROM KANSAS.—This is a fine prairie country. The soil is rich and will raise any kind of grain, if we could get rain enough. Wheat will grow with less rain than many other crops. This is the greatest wheat country I ever saw. In good years wheat yields from fifteen to forty-five bushels an acre. Times are good here; money is plenty. Many farmers are buying more land, besides paying off the mortgages on home places. This is a very healthful country. Plenty of water is obtained by driving pumps fifteen to sixty feet deep. We can raise wheat cheaper here than in any of the eastern states. Land is low in price considering the quality, but is advancing now.

E. J. P.

Great Bend, Kan.

FROM NORTH DAKOTA.—After my letter was published in the FARM AND FIRESIDE, I received numerous letters of inquiry concerning our soil, climate, chances for getting work, etc. In reply I wish to state that I have no land for sale, nor do I wish to hire any one. If a man wishes a new home, his best plan is to come here and investigate, and I think he will be satisfied to remain. But I would advise single men to keep away. Bachelors are already too numerous here and they are not encouraged to locate. Industrious family men, on the contrary, are offered every encouragement.

J. W. G.

Crozier, N. D.

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In order to introduce their low metal wheels with wide tires, the Empire Mfg. Co., Quincy, Ill., have placed upon the market a farmer's handy wagon, sold at the low price of \$19.95. The wagon is only 25 inches high, fitted with 24 and 30 inch wheels, with 4-inch tires. This wagon is made of best material throughout, and fully guaranteed for one year. Catalogue giving full description will be mailed upon application to the manufacturers, who also furnish metal wheels at low prices, made any size and width of tire to fit any axle.



WE no longer supply our seeds to dealers to sell again. At the same time, any one who has bought our seeds of their local dealer during either 1896 or 1897 will be sent our Manual of "Everything for the Garden" for 1898 FREE provided they apply by letter and give the name of the local merchant from whom they bought. To all others, this magnificent Manual, every copy of which costs us 30 cents to place in your hands, will be sent free on receipt of 10 cents (stamps) to cover postage. Nothing like this Manual has ever been seen here or abroad; it is a book of 200 pages, contains 500 engravings of seeds and plants, mostly new, and these are supplemented by 6 full size colored plates of the best novelties of the season, finally, OUR "SOUVENIR" SEED COLLECTION will also be sent without charge to all applicants sending 10 cts. for the Manual who will state where they saw this advertisement. Postal Card Applications Will Receive No Attention.

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by myself from carefully selected cabbages, onions, carrots, beets, etc., (on the principle that like begets like) yet sold as cheap as seed raised from trash. As the original introducer of Cory and Lackey Corn, Deep Head and All-Season's Cabbages, Hubbard and Warren Squash, Miller's Melon, Burbank Potato, the Surprise Pea, and scores of the best vegetables now grown everywhere, brother farmer, I invite a share of your patronage. I want you to plant your

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Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

POULTRY ON SMALL FARMS.

If a small farm of twenty-five acres is set out to an orchard, and a large lot of fowls are kept, the land can thus be made much more serviceable. It will be necessary, however, to give the hens good care. It will not be crowding the hens to keep fifty on an acre, and, of course, one can keep a thousand on a twenty-acre farm. It will not pay one to keep so many, however, unless with sufficient experience and ability to do the work, but even with fewer hens they are necessary adjuncts to fruit-growing, as they render valuable service in an orchard. One advantage with the keeping of fowls and fruit is that the attention given the trees is during spring, summer and fall, at which seasons the hens can run at large and pick up a large share of their food, while in the winter, when the trees cannot be cultivated, the hens can receive full attention. By this arrangement the grower can find profitable employment the entire year, and the hens will give a daily revenue when it is most needed. A flock of hens will thrive only in proportion to the room provided. An acre of ground will afford comfort to a certain number, and while it is not difficult to have the flock larger than is necessary, yet the number of eggs will not be increased. About one hundred hens should be the largest number an acre ought to maintain, and if they are given good care will pay better than two hundred hens, because the larger flock will double the expense without giving a corresponding increase in product. Any farmer who can make a profit of \$50 an acre on his farm will do more than can be claimed by many others, but it can be easily done with poultry, while the land occupied by the hens can also give crops of fruit. An acre in grass will give ample forage for one hundred hens in summer, without requiring any food from the barn, and the eggs will cost almost nothing; but when they are crowded, competition results and the usefulness of the flock is reduced because the conditions are then unfavorable.

CROP-BOUND IN SPRING.

At this season it may be noticed that some of the hens will have bowel difficulty and the crops will be distended. This is due to the eating of seeds which are not separated from the stalks, the hens swallowing the whole of each stalk because of the difficulty of separating the seeds, and in a short time the crop is packed with a dense mass of such material, a portion of which begins to decompose, the whole soon being of a character to cause blood-poisoning. The symptoms are full and hard crops and watery discharge from the bowels, the hens becoming droopy. The remedy is to prevent them from having access to the hay or other coarse, dry and unsuitable materials, and give green food, if possible, or keep them up until grass begins to appear. Medicine will be of no avail, as the materials in the crop should be removed by opening the crop and sewing the opening afterwards. It may prove efficacious, but there is no other way to save the fowls.

SPRING LAYERS.

There is a disposition to neglect the poultry when spring opens, as farmers are then getting ready for the busy season; but the hens are really then in the best condition for laying, just as the winter is passing away, and can be made to pay better than at any other period, if given good care. The farmer has but little time to bestow on any kind of stock when plowing begins, but, nevertheless, the most of his cash will come from the cows and hens, and if he can manage to give his fowls some attention until they can be turned upon the range he will be well paid for so doing. The mistake most liable to be made is that of turning the hens out to care for themselves too early in the season, as the northeast storms and cold rains will be detrimental, causing roup and other diseases due to colds. The main point in spring is to afford shelter and also warmth at night, as some days in spring are raw, the sudden changes of weather doing more harm than continued cold.

FEEDING IN TROUGHS.

It is a fact well known that all flocks contain domineering hens, and they keep the timid ones in constant fear and subjection. When food is given in a trough, where the hens can eat their fill, the domineering ones keep some of the others back and eat twice as much as their share, while the less fortunate fowls do not get enough, the result being that some hens become very fat, while others are not even in a fair condition. The remedy for this difficulty is to not feed in troughs unless it cannot be avoided, but to scatter the grains and compel every hen to hunt and scratch for her share, thus giving each an equal advantage. When feeding soft food troughs must be used, however; but to avoid monopoly by a few it is better to have several small troughs placed at different points than to put the food into one trough only. It is better to so feed that the hens must take plenty of time to pick up their food, instead of stuffing their crops in a short time, as they will then digest a larger proportion of the food consumed and be less liable to disease.

TABLE-FOWLS.

When hatching the chicks for the year why not try to have a few extra ones for your own use that will be nearly equal to turkeys. To do this mate an Indian Game male with Dorking hens and you will be surprised at the difference in quality when they get on the table compared with common fowls. If you do not wish to buy a cock and hens, procure a male of either the Indian Game or Dorking breed, and mate him with the hens you have, and there will be a great improvement. Such birds should not be considered as ranking very high as layers, however.

PULLETS SHOULD BEGIN.

Some of the early pullets should begin laying now, as the advanced guard of the spring layers, and if they are healthy, with bright, red combs, it should not be long before they add their quota to the egg-basket. But there will be many pullets which should lay, if one must judge by indications, which do not fulfill expectations. When such is the case it is possible that they have been overfed and made too fat, the only remedy being to shut off all grain and give one ounce of lean meat once a day, compelling them to work and get into laying condition.

DRESSING POULTRY FOR MARKET.

The appearance of a dressed carcass in market largely affects its value. It is not sufficient to simply remove the feathers, but it should be done neatly, taking out the pin-feathers, also. Experts singe the carcass, after carefully picking the feathers; but this must be done so as to avoid burning the skin or leaving evidence of such work. Western poultry is scalded, but the best prices are offered for the carcasses that are dry-picked. The skin of very young fowls may be easily torn, which must be avoided, or sales will be more difficult.

NESTS FOR SITTERS.

If hens are allowed to sit during the cold weather the nests must not only be composed of warm material, but the boxes must be in a warm location, or injury will result to the eggs and embryo chicks when the hens come off to eat. Sometimes the hens will have to stand quite a severe temperature, but when a hen is compelled to warm a dozen ice-cold eggs with her body she suffers an infliction which nothing but a bird will endure. The warmer the nests the slower the eggs will give off heat when exposed, and the less difficulty is encountered by the hen in warming them.

GREEN FOOD IN EARLY SPRING.

All green food that appears early in the spring is watery and also laxative, causing "scours," or bowel-disease. To prevent such difficulty allow the hens but a few minutes at first, increasing the length of time each day. Should the effects of the green food be noticeable, keep the fowls up until they recover, allowing enough salt in the ground grain to season it. To keep a lot of hens on rye very early in the spring may cause them to become thin in flesh and lessen the supply of eggs. As the green food makes more growth, and is less watery, it may be used more liberally.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BREED AND FEED.—I saw an article in your paper, of January 1st, in regard to bran as being the food to feed hens for the best results for eggs. I think if there was a little more common sense used in feeding hens farmers would get better results. I have kept hens for twenty-five years and always had my hens lay. In the first place I select my best pullets, put them in for winter, and feed them on the best of everything, mainly scraps from the table, also corn, wheat, meal, oats, buckwheat, etc., or anything else that I have to feed. Now, I think the breed of hens is the same as hogs. I think most of the breed is in the feed. You feed them well and they will pay you back. They say that you can get a hen too fat, but that has never been my experience, for I never had a hen so fat that she would not lay eggs. June 8, 1896, I sold my stock off but two hens, set them both, and the two raised fourteen chicks, of which I saved five pullets and the two old hens. The pullets layed about the first of October, and I sold, from the seven hens, sixty-seven dozens of eggs in one year, and set three hens, realizing \$34, besides supplying my family with plenty. I think it is all bosh about the feed. Feed them all you want and they will repay you for your feed and trouble, just as anything else will. I first got Langshan hens and a Plymouth Rock rooster; then I killed off the old stock and kept the pullets; then I got a Brown Leghorn cockerel, and the hens I have now is the cross, which are all black, with yellow legs, and they make a fine table-fowl, weighing about four and one half pounds each when dressed. If any of our sisters in the business can beat this, please give me through the paper what kind of hens they have and how they feed them.

Galeton, Pa.

WILD BLOOD IN TURKEYS.—I noticed in the FARM AND FIRESIDE, of January 1st, an article on "Raising Turkeys." The writer warns breeders to let wild stock alone, as they are hard to manage. I am breeding from a pure wild cockerel of the best bronze color that can be obtained. I have been breeding this stock for three years. I find them to be the healthiest turkeys to breed, yet they are not the largest turkey, but make a fine cross on the Bronze, adding fine color and strong constitution. The Bronze originated by crossing the black-bronze wild turkey on our common black domesticated turkey. The original wild stock of America were black and white mottled and black-bronze; by infusing the wild blood into our common domesticated stock, and judicious breeding, the Mammoth Bronze were produced, the finest turkey grown in America. To keep this turkey at its best the wild blood should be infused occasionally. The half wild will come nearer making their own living than any breed, for they are naturally good foragers and are quick to detect approaching danger, therefore making good mothers. My wild cockerel is as gentle as I care for a turkey to be. He was hatched under a common dunghill fowl.

Providence, Ky.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Mixed Stock.—J. D. Attica, Kan., writes: "Will a mixed flock, that is, cross-bred, lay better than thoroughbreds?"

REPLY:—Experiments show that pure breeds give better results than cross-bred fowls, as crossing destroys the characteristics of a flock.

Lameness of Turkeys.—J. A. O.K., Atchison, Kan., writes: "What is the cause of my turkeys being lame?"

REPLY:—Probably they are injured by being compelled to jump from a high roost every morning.

Plymouth Rocks.—M. M. Ardmore, Pa., writes: "I purchased eggs last spring, of Plymouth Rocks, and some of them have a few feathers on the toes; is it correct?"

REPLY:—Pure-bred Plymouth Rocks should have clean legs, bare of feathers. Feathered legs are evidences of impurity.

Large Gray Lice.—E. K., Portland, Oregon, writes: "My chickens are afflicted with large gray lice. They are only on the heads of the chicks, and appear as soon as hatched."

REPLY:—Such lice go from the hens to the chicks. Rub a few drops of melted lard or sweet-oil on the heads twice a week. Do not use too much, as grease is injurious to chicks.

Picking Ducks.—H. M., Sewell, N. J., writes: "Our dealer states that our ducks are not properly picked, although we pick them dry; how should it be done?"

REPLY:—Carefully remove all pin-feathers. Singe the carcasses, but do it quickly, and then wash in ice-cold water. It requires much patience and care to pick ducks dry.

White Leghorns.—1. Are the White Leghorns as bumpy and rugged as the Browns? 2. Are chickens hatched in an incubator as good, after they get their growth, to lay eggs as those hatched under hens? 3. Some of my hens are blind and giddy.

REPLY:—1. There is no difference in the breeds of Leghorns, except in color. 2. Yes; it matters not how they are hatched. 3. You are probably overfeeding them.

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under proper conditions. Those conditions are defined in our **MAMMOTH NEW POULTRY BOOK and CATALOGUE** for 1898. Bigger & better than ever before. Printed in colors; cuts and description of all leading breeds of fowls; poultry house plans, tested remedies, prices on poultry, eggs, etc. With 25¢ sent postpaid for 15 cents in stamps or gold. **The J. W. Miller Co.** Box 162, Freeport, Ill.

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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Peanut Culture.—T. J. H., New London, Iowa. Plant and cultivate peanuts just as you would beans. Write to Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for Farmers' Bulletin No. 25—"Peanuts: Culture and Uses."

Melou-blight.—B. F. L., Empire, La., writes: "What makes young cucumber-plants die? Mine last season were looking healthy, with four leaves on, and would then all dry up even with the ground."

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—The cucumber-vines were struck with the blight, a very common disease for which a remedy has not yet been found.

Potatoes for Rich Lowland.—"Subscriber," of Dorchester county, Md., writes: "My garden is very rich in humus. Potatoes grow enormous vines, but few tubers. What should I do? Have never used commercial fertilizers. Would you recommend lime or kainit, or both? I use ashes from kitchen stove, but as I burn pine, they are of little value."

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—Try potatoes of dwarfish growth, especially the Early Ohio, possibly the Freeman, or perhaps sorts of the Early Rose type. Ashes will make a good manure, even if from pine wood. Try also one hundred pounds of muriate of potash, and two hundred or three hundred pounds of dissolved South Carolina rock (acid phosphate) an acre, broadcast.

Tanning Hides.—L. A. G., Independence, Kan., and others. To tan hides with the hair on, for rugs or robes, first thoroughly wash the skin and remove all fleshy matter from the inner side; then clean the hair with warm water and soft-soap, and rinse well. Take one fourth of a pound each of salt and ground alum and one half ounce of borax; dissolve in hot water, and add sufficient rye-meal to make a thick paste, which spread on the flesh side of the skin. Fold it lengthwise, the flesh side in, the skin being quite moist, and let it remain for ten or fifteen days in an airy and shady place; then shake out and remove the paste from the surface, and wash and dry. For a heavy skin a second application may be made. Afterward pull and stretch the skin with the hands or over a beam, and work on the flesh side with a blunt knife. To tan for things, scrape all the flesh and fat off the skin; bury it, well spread out, in wet ashes or soft-soap for a day or two, or until the hair starts readily. Remove the hair and wash thoroughly. Make a tanning solution by dissolving a large handful of pulverized alum and two handfuls of common salt in a gallon of water. Soak the skin in this solution for two weeks, then rinse thoroughly and pull; rub and stretch while drying. The leather will be soft, and will make good lashes as long as kept dry.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. Detmers, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

Note.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Heifer Lost Her Calf.—M. A. P., Allegheny, Pa. It will probably not hurt your heifer to be bred again and to have another calf, but the possibility exists that she may again lose it.

A Barren Cow.—F. C. C., Mayhill, Ohio. Since the cause of the barrenness of your cow is not known, and as most of the possible causes, even if known, cannot be removed, the best advice I can give you is to prepare such a cow as rapidly as possible for the shambles.

Lame.—H. B. F., Highwood, Conn. All that can be made out from your letter is that the horse's lameness is very likely in, or somewhere near, the shoulder-joint, because you say in your communication that the horse is more lame going up hill than down hill, which is never the case if the seat of the lameness is in the foot of a fore leg.

Worms in a Horse.—D. B. C., Findlay, Ohio. If the worms which pass off with the excrements of your horse are small, they are probably matured specimens of Sclerostomum equinum. To avoid too many tedious repetitions, I refer you concerning these worms to what has been said about them in the reply to J. G., Waitsfield, Vt., in this present issue.

Dirty Mane and Tail—About a Mare.—G. T. L., Hubbarton, Vt. If the mane and tail of your mare are very heavy and always very dirty, the skin of the animal is probably also very coarse and thick. I advise you to make frequent use of soap and warm water and a good brush, and also to give the mane and tail an occasional wash with a three-per-cent solution of creolin in water. As to your other mare, the fact that she has been only a year in Vermont cannot make it imprudent to breed her, especially if she otherwise possesses the qualifications of a good brood-mare.

Habitual Colic.—H. L., Bethel, N. Y. What you describe is a case of habitual colic. You cannot remove the predisposing cause, the aneurism in the anterior mesenteric artery, but to a certain extent you can ward off the exciting cause by keeping the animal on a strict and very regular diet; that is, by not feeding anything but that which is sound and digestible, and never more than good flesh. Still, in spite of all precautions, an animal subject to so frequent attacks of colic as your mare will sooner or later succumb to an attack being a little more severe or lasting a little longer than the preceding ones.

An Old Fistulous Ulcer.—J. F. M., Woolrich, Pa. A sore or ulcer of a fistulous character extending to the bone (the tibia) with the periosteum undoubtedly diseased, inflicted when the horse, now nine years old, was a colt, will never be brought to healing unless a surgical operation is performed by a skilful veterinarian. There is no difficulty in finding one in your state.

Either Garget or Tuberculosis.—C. T., Scotchtown, N. Y. What you complain of in regard to your cows is either garget, or possibly tuberculosis. If it is the former, vigorous milking every two hours until the milk is perfectly normal again constitutes the remedy. As to the possibility of tuberculosis (I do not say that it is), but there is just suspicion enough to make it advisable to have the cows, every one of them, subjected to the tuberculin test, which will settle the question.

Bite and Lick Themselves.—C. L., Groins, N. Y. If your calves are free from lice, maybe that you have, or allow, chickens in the stable, and that the itching, which causes the calves to bite and lick themselves, is caused by chicken-lice. If so, banish the chickens from the stable, clean the stalls and give the calves a good wash with a three-per-cent solution of creolin in warm water, or if the weather is too cold for a wash, dust some Persian insect-powder into the coat of hair of the calves.

Pastern Burnt by a Rope.—H. D. H., Hurdles Mills, N. C. Unless there is much decayed tissue, or so-called proud-flesh, in the sore or cut on the pastern of your mule, produced some time ago by a rope, a dressing twice a day with a mixture of iodoform and tannic acid, equal parts by weight, and absorbent cotton, and then the whole protected and kept in place by a bandage, will effect a healing. Still, a large and ugly scar will be left behind, and will be permanent. If there is decayed tissue, or luxuriant granulation lacking vitality, it must first be destroyed by means of some caustic (a little finely powdered sulphate of copper, once applied, will answer) or be removed by other means.

A Lame Mule.—C. L., Corpus Christi, Texas. Your mule evidently has very sore and tender feet, and possibly suffers from chronic founder, or laminitis. In the latter case you will find the soles of the hoofs, instead of concave, flat, or more or less convex, and very tender. Get a good horseshoer, let him pare away all loose and decayed horn and then shoe the mule in such a way that there will be no bearing upon the tender parts. To do this will probably require a bar-shoe. This will particularly be the case if the mule has been foundered. Fortunately, in cases of founder, the frog, as a rule, is sound and can stand considerable pressure. If the mule is yet lame after the same has been properly shod, exemption from work and strict rest will be necessary until the lameness has disappeared.

A Lame Horse.—A. M. C., Fairmount, Tenn. You fail to give any symptoms of the lameness, and thus make it impossible for me to locate the same. What you mention about the apparent sensitiveness at the hip is very inessential. I advise you to examine first, in a thorough manner, the foot, see whether the shoes have been on too long and cause pressure; look for corns, bruises in the sole, false quarters, contracted heels, etc.; see whether there is any increased pulsation in the internal and external lateral arteries of the pastern; then examine the joints, first the hoof-joint, then the coronet and then the pastern-joint. If the seat of the lameness has not been found in these parts, examine the flexor tendons, and thus work your way upward until the seat and the nature of the lameness has been discovered. Space forbids to give any more complete directions.

Vertigo.—J. G., Waitsfield, Vt. What you describe is a case of vertigo. It is possible that the condition of the animal, but particularly the probable existence of one or more aneurisms in large arteries, has something to do with it. The worms, which you say pass from her, appear to be mature specimens of Sclerostomum equinum, a worm which, in its immature form, is frequent in some of the larger arteries of horses, and causes there, but particularly in the anterior mesenteric and also in some other arteries, the formation of aneurisms which, by more or less seriously interfering with the circulation, constitute the cause of frequent, especially gastric, disorders, and are inaccessible to treatment. Vertigo must be considered as incurable, unless the cause or causes are known and can be removed. The mature worms, when already in the rectum, do no perceptible damage. Their exit can be hastened by an injection of a pint of raw linseed-oil into the rectum. It is, however, of much more importance not to permit the horse to drink any surface or stagnant water containing the worm-brood, because it is the young or immature worms that do the damage.

A Kicker.—S. B. C., Quicksburgh, Va. If your mare has always been gentle and only about a month ago has suddenly become a vicious kicker, there must be some cause for it, perhaps in the treatment she has received. Ascertain what that cause may be, and then, if possible, remove it and endeavor to convince your mare that no harm is threatening, but also that you are not afraid of her. If she kicks in the stable without any justification whatever, you may teach her a lesson and show her that kicking is poor business. Take a strong canvas bag (a good grain-sack will answer), put in it from one half bushel to a bushel of dry sand, and then suspend the sand-bag by means of a strong rope at such a distance and height behind the mare that she will hit it every time she kicks. The sand-bag will be quick to retaliate, and kick the kicker every time it is struck. A regular battle will take place, but the mare will get tired and the sand-bag will not know any such thing, and soon drive the mare to the frontmost corner of her stall. You may stand at a safe distance and laugh at the impotent anger of the mare. Do not remove the sand-bag until the mare is perfectly cured.

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Our Farm.

PRACTICAL BEE-KEEPING.

THE most important factor of success in bee-keeping for the farmer is the season. Given all other things favorable, if honey-producing flowers are not abundant, or if the flora yields no nectar, then there is depression in the business. Bee-keeping, like some other lines of farm industry, has a special side to it, and to the man or woman who loves to study the mysteries of nature, as displayed in the varying forms of animated creation, the keeping of bees becomes attractive and wonderfully fascinating.

But one may say that this interesting feature of the business don't pay taxes, buy groceries, provide clothing or foot the bills of the family. But there is another side to the business, a money side; and I think the facts will bear me out in saying that bee-keeping intelligently carried on by those adapted to the business, taking a term of ten years, will pay a larger per cent profit on the capital invested than most kinds of stock kept by the general farmer.

This statement is based upon the system of keeping bees for honey production. Rearing bee stock and queens for market, and the supply business, are special lines, requiring training and experience. But from the standpoint of the farmer, fruit-grower and gardener, or the professional man who wishes to keep a few swarms of bees to supply his table with the most delicious and healthful sweets produced in the world, the investment can be made very remunerative.

In this connection a few figures will be helpful. For convenience I will assume that operations are based upon keeping ten swarms of bees. We shall want ten hives, costing, with frames and section-cases, say two dollars each. If the man is a mechanic he can buy his hives, frames and section-cases in the flat, and get them for considerably less. The hives procured, he will need some comb foundation. I believe it is best to use, in part at least, full sheets of foundation in the brood-frames and full starters in the sections. Some division boards will also be needed, a smoker, etc., which will bring the whole outfit up to thirty or forty dollars, depending very much upon the man and his aptness to manufacture his own fixings after he has patterns and samples to guide him. This outfit is for the production of comb-honey. If, after the business has become somewhat familiar, one desires to run a part of the apiary for extracted honey, there will be the expense of extractor, say eight dollars, honey-knife, one dollar, and the first cost of a lot of extra foundation. These, with extra frames of comb, can be kept on hand indefinitely with careful usage. This will be an added expense of eighteen to twenty dollars, making the whole outfit for keeping ten swarms of bees about sixty dollars, the apiary to be run for both comb and extracted honey.

I have made no account of the bees, because I am writing for the beginner, who, having started with one or two swarms of bees, has acquired some knowledge of the business as he has worked his way along and saved his swarms, and has come to a time when he wants to make a little more of a business operation of his bee-keeping. If he has ten swarms on hand it is probable they are not in debt to him.

Now, after investing so much and having the bees, what may we reasonably expect from them? From eight swarms and their increase one year I obtained 1,000 pounds of honey, combed and extracted. This was not all first-class honey, however, as that season the bees gathered considerable honey in August from honey-dew, which was dark-colored and of inferior quality. The year before, and the year following, the yield of honey was in about the same proportion. This was my first experience in running the extractor. Upon the experience of these years, with eight to fifteen colonies, taking the seasons together, I state that ten swarms of bees can be readily made to yield a yearly income of one hundred dollars net.

The great drawback is in wintering the bees. I am often asked why bees do not winter as well now as older bee-keepers know they did thirty or forty years ago. The answer is readily found in the altered conditions in which bees are now kept. Of course, it must be admitted that great improvement has been made in bee-keeping; but on the other hand, it has been somewhat at the expense of the bees by entailing loss in wintering. The bee-keepers

presume to dictate to the bees how they shall do this or that, and in several respects change the economy of the hive. When left to work on their own plan the hive is usually filled with crooked combs. These crooked combs, with their galleries, nooks and corners, afford better protection from cold, and the food supply is more accessible to the bees than under the present system of perfectly straight combs.

Another fruitful source of trouble in wintering bees is the quality of winter stores. Most bee-keepers know that the earliest crops of honey are the best. Fruit-bloom and white clover are the great sources of honey supply for market in the eastern states. In some sections the linden (basswood) is an important source of supply. From these sources the bee-keeper endeavors to obtain his market honey crop. Later and inferior kinds of honey are relied upon for winter stores for the bees.

Now the question is, how to best meet this altered condition of things and save our bees in winter. Resort is had to cellar wintering, chaff hives for out of doors, with the removal of all inferior honey from the hives with the extractor, and feeding pure sugar-syrup. A cellar—even if not very dry—with proper preparation of hives is a good place to winter bees under our present system of management. A cold cellar in which the temperature goes down to thirty-four degrees, and rarely up to forty degrees during the winter, is about the worst place to winter bees in one could select. But if the temperature ranges from forty degrees upward the conditions are very favorable for getting the bees through the winter up to the first of April; then comes the test. "Spring dwindling" is the bane of cellar wintering. Bees wintered in the cellar seem to be weaker and less able to withstand the chill and dampness of April and early May. Outdoor wintered stocks seem more hardy when spring opens, and fewer bees are lost from changes of the weather. Chaff hives, if well made, afford one of the best means of wintering bees in our cold climate, but cost considerably more than others. We can put a covering around our single-walled hives and pack in dry leaves. Cheap boxes with a good cover to keep out the rain and snow can be provided at a slight cost. L. F. ABBOTT.

FIG CULTURE IN THE WEST.

The fig is a semi-tropical fruit coming chiefly from the shores of the Mediterranean sea. The trees are being planted quite extensively in Arizona, California, New Mexico and the warmer sections of Utah. Kern county, California, has 24,000 acres planted to figs, and several other equally favored valleys in the Golden State have good areas planted to this new fruit. The largest fig orchard in the world is supposed to be on a big fruit-farm near Phoenix, Arizona. This extensive tract has recently come into bearing, and the fruit finds a market in our country. The trees bear well and are usually in good fruit at four years, if properly handled. Some growers have a theory that cultivation prevents growth and diminishes the quantity of fruit, but this seems to be only an idle theory. The trees require light, shallow cultivation and clean ground, if good crops are expected.

Fig-trees are low and shrubby, the limbs bending over to the ground and frequently taking root, like the canes of the raspberry. The leaves are rough above and smooth below, varying in size and design, and are much desired for parlor ornaments. The Mormons regard the fig as a sacred tree, using the leaves for aprons in temple work and for adorning the dead when ready for burial. The fruit grows singly, on a stem, and resembles a small pear. There are several varieties of the fig, but the ones I have noticed and those most frequently planted in the West are the Adriatic, Brunswick and California. The finest trees and best fruits I have seen were of the White Adriatic, but the Black California is a choice variety, grown on the Pacific coast. Figs are hand-picked and dried in the sun or by evaporators, similar to prunes, when they are packed in boxes of five and ten pounds, and placed on the market.

Two crops a year is not an unusual thing in fig culture. In the warm, sandy districts of Asia Minor, where the famous Smyrna figs are important articles of food and medicine, two crops are harvested every year. One early fruiting ripens in midsummer, being the product of branches one year old, while the later or fall harvest comes from branches growing the same year. JOEL SHOMAKER.

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Our Farm.

MAXIMUM GARDEN CROPS.

Every market-gardener knows that the profit in gardening lies in growing large crops of the best quality, and that poor crops often do not pay the cost of production. In my own garden some crops have paid me large profits and some have been produced at a loss. After twenty years of experimental work in the garden I think I can describe methods that can be relied upon to produce large crops. I like to give other people the benefit of my experience, yet in describing my successes I realize that I may induce persons without experience to rush into the business, who, by not carrying out all the details, will make a failure of it and blame those who gave them the ideas. They learn by sad experience "that there is a part of success which no man can give or sell" which comes to him by hard thinking and painstaking work, and from the lessons learned by failures. Every man must struggle for and earn his own success.

When I see an amateur, who is trying to make a living from the garden, spreading his labor and fertilizers over too much land, I feel like telling him just what I would do with one acre in growing my specialties. Let us suppose that we have an acre of good garden soil free from stones or other obstructions, and either naturally or artificially drained. I want a loamy soil that is light and easily cultivated; then I would make it very rich and at the same time so fill it with humus that it would absorb and retain a large quantity of moisture. How to do this would depend on circumstances. If I could get a good quality of stable manure near by at moderate price (say \$1 a ton), I would draw the manure and cover the land at least three inches deep with it. Then I would take a cutaway-harrow, if I could get it, or a spike-tooth harrow, and harrow the surface of the ground, after putting on the manure, until it was as mellow as an ash-bed, and the lumps of manure were all finely pulverized and mixed with the soil. Then I would plow this finely pulverized soil and manure under to a depth of six or eight inches, so that when the roots of the plants grow downward, instead of having the coarse manure and lumpy soil to feed upon, as left by the plow, they would find a layer of finely pulverized plant-food. I would again harrow the surface of the ground—I use a good harrow for the last harrowing. I would prepare the land for my market crops, which are strawberries, celery and cauliflower, as follows: With a line and marker I would lay it off in perfectly straight rows of the desired distance apart. Then over these rows I would scatter some good brand of complete commercial fertilizer, and run the marker over the rows again to mix it with the soil. This fertilizer will provide available food for the young plants until the roots get down to the manure below the surface. The object is to get the largest root formation deep where the moisture is and where the cultivator will not disturb them. After the plants are set, or seed sown, a fine-toothed cultivator is indispensable. Cultivate between the rows of plants once a week, or oftener, and quite deeply until the roots grow so large that you will disturb them; then cultivate shallow, but keep the soil loose.

When the plants get larger the question is how to retain the moisture. Some recommend keeping an earth mulch about one inch deep by frequent cultivation; but on a small area, and especially with my crops, I get the best results by mulching the space between the rows, when the plants become half grown, with manure, straw or other material. This is of great benefit to strawberries and celery. On my own land, when placing the mulch between the rows, I leave a narrow trench in the center of the row, about six inches wide, and in this run maure-water, made in a large tank, and delivered through piping and hose where it is wanted. This method is very valuable in forcing strawberries to a large growth when used just before fruiting, and always insures a large and profitable crop of cauliflower. For those who are unable to practice any plan of irrigation this mulching between the rows of plants when about half grown is about the next best thing for them. Some garden crops when grown by the intensive system will so completely shade the ground as to prevent evaporation by the sun.

W. H. JENKINS.

SOY-BEAN CULTURE.

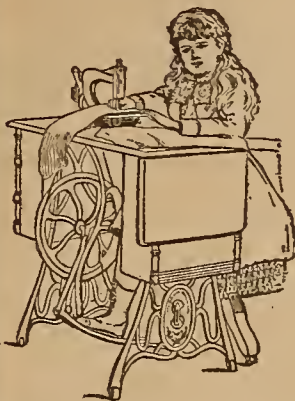
In a general way, the same methods of culture may be recommended for the soy-bean as would be given to the ordinary field-beans. The soil should be well prepared, so as to afford a good root-bed, and should be left smooth and free from clods in order to facilitate the cultivation and harvesting of the crop. If the soil is lacking in potash and phosphoric acid, these should be supplied to secure the best results. From experiments carried on at the Massachusetts Hatch experiment station, it is probable that for this crop the potash can be best supplied in the form of the muriate. Under ordinary conditions it is not likely that there will be any necessity for using any nitrogen-containing fertilizer, as sufficient of this element is usually present in the soil, and, like other legumes, this plant assimilates the free nitrogen of the air. In experiments with this crop where nitrogen has been supplied to the soil in various forms it has been found that there was but very little gain in the yield, and in but very few instances was this sufficient to pay for the extra fertilizer used.

Although soy-beans may be planted quite early in the season, the best results will be obtained if the seeding is postponed until the ground has become thoroughly warm; and in case the earlier varieties are used, a fairly good crop of forage or even of seed may be obtained if the seeds are not planted until the earlier small grains, such as rye and barley, have been harvested. It may thus be possible to obtain two crops from the same field in a single season; one of small grain, and the other of soy-bean, and yet to leave the land in better condition than if the second crop had not been grown. Another practice is to drill the beans in between the rows of corn after the last plowing; they are also sometimes planted between the hills of corn, as are field-beans. The best method of seeding will depend somewhat upon the kind of crop which it is desired to harvest. If the soil is good, and a crop of hay or green fodder is desired, good results may be obtained by sowing broadcast or with a grain-drill. If, however, a crop of beans is desired, it is best to plant in drills from two to three feet apart, according as the soil is light or heavy.

There is considerable difference in the amount of seed sown an acre in the various parts of the country; some farmers sow only about half a bushel to the acre, while others prefer a bushel or even more. The proper amount will necessarily vary somewhat, according to the method of seeding and the character of the soil. As a rule, when grown for seed, from one half to three fourths of a bushel an acre will be ample. When put in with a grain-drill or sown broadcast a greater amount of seed will be required; but in any case it will hardly be necessary to use more than one bushel an acre. Of course, less seed will be required when the grain-drill is used than when the seed is sown broadcast, and as a rule better results will be obtained. When planted for beans, enough seed should be used to give an average of five or six plants to each foot in the row. If nothing better is at hand for planting the seed, an ordinary grain-drill, with enough of the holes stopped up to give the desired distance for the rows, may be used. For example, if the holes are eight inches apart, number one may be left open, numbers two, three and four closed, number five open, etc., and the rows will be thirty-two inches apart; or, if a less distance is desired, number four may be left open and number five closed, and the rows will be twenty-four inches apart.

When the seed has been drilled in rows close together or has been sown broadcast very little cultivation will be necessary. It will sometimes be found advisable, however, to cultivate the drilled field soon after planting, as in case the land is very foul, the weeds are liable to get such a start that will interfere with the growth of the young soy-plants. For this purpose use a light harrow. When grown for seed thorough cultivation should be given, at least while the plants are young. As a rule, cultivation should be shallow and frequent, if the best results are to be obtained. When the ground is inclined to pack or bake, it should be stirred after each rain; but care should be taken not to work the field when the plants are very wet from rain or dew. If the drills have not been made too far apart, it will be found that the plants will soon shade the soil sufficiently to keep the weeds in check and to keep the surface in good condition, so that much cultivation will be unnecessary.—From Farmers' Bulletin No. 58.

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are very different from those of the past. Very few users of sewing machines know the *technical differences*; patents have expired on generic features, but "the world moves," and radical improvements have been made in sewing machines, so that the one of to-day shows a tremendous improvement on its predecessor. Women who have used both kinds quickly realize the difference between a cheaply made imitation of some ancient type and the modern light-running machine which is easily adjusted, does all kinds of work, and is always ready to go. The Silent Singer of to-day is the latest

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Get a Singer. You can try one free. Old machines taken in exchange.

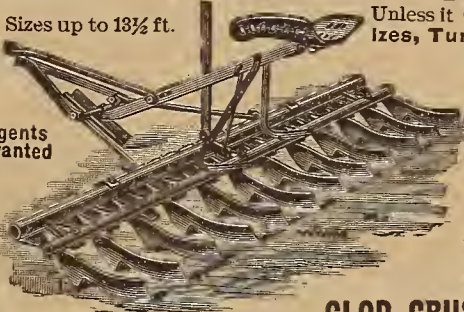
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Our Fireside.

KATHLEEN MAVOURNEEN.

When, some time before he died, Mr. Crouch was reported critically ill, James Whitcomb Riley wrote the following lovely tribute to the author of "Kathleen Mavourneen":

Kathleen Mavourneen, the song is still ringing,
As fresh and as clear as the trill of the bird,
In world-weary hearts it is sobbing and singing,
In pathos too sweet for the tenderest word.

Oh, have we forgotten the one who first breathed it?
And have we forgotten his rapturous art?
Our meed to the master whose genius bequeathed it;
Oh, why art thou silent, thou voice of my heart?

Kathleen Mavourneen, thy lover still lingers,
The long night is waning—the stars pale and few,
Thy sad serenader, with tremulous fingers,
Is bound with his tears as the lily with dew.

The old harpstrings quaver, the old voice is shaking,
In sighs and in sobs moans the yearning refrain,
The old vision dims and the old heart is breaking—
Kathleen Mavourneen, inspire us again!

THE BRIDE OF THE KLONDIKE

BY LYDIA HOYT FARMER.

Author of "The Doom of the Holy City," "Annet Belindy's Points of View," "A Short History of the French Revolution," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER I.

THE mining-camp of Juneau was wild with excitement. Indians from the regions to the north had arrived at the camp, bringing samples of rock and sand from the far-off ice-fields and the frozen river-beds of Northern Alaska, which created a frenzy of hope in the minds of the gold hunters. A party of forty men determined to start back with the Indian guides to search for that Eldorado of golden treasure.

One of these men was a young farmer from southern California, who, hearing the wonderful stories of Alaskan gold, had gathered together a capital of forty dollars, and had landed at Juneau with five dollars in his pocket to begin his mining venture.

Curtis Benton, this Californian fruit-grower, was a splendid specimen of physical strength—tall, brawny in muscle, and stout of heart. Besides these qualities he had an incentive for heroic efforts to obtain, if possible, this coveted gold. Under the radiant skies of southern California, in a farm-house nestled amid fruit-groves and luxuriant bloom, there lived a true-hearted maiden, who had already become the ideal of his life. But fruit-growing promised slow returns, and the securing of home and bride seemed far in the distance to his eager heart. So he determined to brave Alaskan ice and dangers, that, perchance, a fickle fortune might throw in his way some glittering nuggets, which would give him the means to offer a home to the girl who was the object of his love.

This party of forty men led by their Indian guides started on their perilous journey towards the Chilcot Pass. It was early in the spring. The snow was still piled up in drifts many feet in depth, as the hardy party of miners toiled over the ice-fields and along the dizzy cliffs. But it was a fight between life and death every day. All along the route one and another of the band of struggling men gave out, frozen or starved to death; for the whole outfit of supplies had gone down in the icy waves of Lake Bennett. The forty men had dwindled to three; Benton and two others. At last a few chunks of frozen meat was all that stood between them and starvation.

"I'm going back!" said Bill Smith, one of the three.

The trio were seated upon a huge boulder at the foot of a snow-capped peak. Before them was a river of ice and a river of water, flowing side by side, forming cascades and rapids, as they dashed along, joining their rippling icy notes to the roar of numerous waterfalls, as glaciers and mountain streams chanted, with jubilant glee, their spring song of partial liberation from the ice-bound prisons of the winter's fettering chains and Arctic cold.

"I'm with you there," rejoined Ben Jones; "how much good is gold to a dead dog?"

"I'm going on!" said Curtis Benton, with a look of determination on his handsome face.

"Benton, you're a fool, man, to try and brave it out longer," said Bill Smith. "I'm no tenderfoot at mining, but this beats me clear out hollow."

"You're right, there, Smith," rejoined Jones. "I've starved before now, for a few days, but this blamed cold and hunger together is too much for me. Why, those confounded ice-fields ahead seem to reach to the North Pole, for all I can see, without any break in their deadly whiteness. White shrouds may be pretty enough in one's coffin, when the corpse is decked out with flowers and green; but this snowy shroud is not to my fancy. So back I go."

"And the sooner we start the better," said Smith. "Benton, you'd better turn back with us, if you're not clean sick of life, and are only bent upon suicide; for that's what it is

if we go ahead; and it is a mighty slim chance to escape the Old Skull's-head, Death, even if we face about now."

"Well, boys, I'm going ahead," said Benton, resolutely; "gold is what I came for, and gold I mean to have. Lend me one chunk of that frozen bacon we've still on hand, and if I come back alive, I'll pay you for it in gold nuggets. My grub is clean out."

"You'll never live to get your nuggets," answered Smith; "but here's the chunk of bacon; Jones and I will divide the rest, and we may have the luck to reach Juneau once more alive."

Smith and Jones made short work of turning back, and they were soon lost to the view of Benton, behind some huge boulders. Curtis Benton gathered up his frozen bacon, drew his leather belt more tightly around his fur coat, took off his rubber boots for a moment to turn out the snow which had been pressed into them in wading through the drifts, and set his face resolutely toward the north.

All around him was a plain of glaciers, through which channels had been made by the spring freshets, and icebergs, loosened from the mountain sides, swept downward, glittering in the midday light with dazzling rainbow tints.

A forest of gloomy pine-trees darkened the mountain side to the right, while before him the ice and snow swept northward as far as the eye could reach.

Night came down upon him as he tracked alone through this dreary wilderness of forest, icebergs, glaciers, ice-plains, dangerous rapids, yawning chasms and frowning cliffs.

the fogs and mists arising from the melting snow-banks and gleaming glaciers.

Just as the sun had reached the meridian, as he laborously clambered along over rough rocks, leaping yawning chasms, and now and then slaking up to his waist in snow-drifts, or wading through ice-cold streams which flowed down the mountain sides into the rushing river below, he beheld a sight so majestic and awe-inspiring that he stood still in his path upon the mountain side to watch the magnificent spectacle.

The thunder of a breaking iceberg boomed down the gorge, and was echoed and re-echoed with roaring reverberations from peak to peak of the mountain-range. Then, with a piercing crash, which gradually settled into a thundering roar, then subsided into a deep-toned muttering growl, as though all the satanic elements had been let loose, a huge iceberg broke from the upper fissured portion of the glacier wall, and fell with grating clash into the waves beneath. Around the fallen ice giant the dancing waves revealed in wild glee in the dazzling sunlight. Then, amid the swash and roar of the berg-waves as they reached the shore and broke among the boulders into fountains of rainbow-tinted spray, the gleaming ice-mountain rose from the water and heaved aloft hundreds of feet towards the azure arch above, ere it settled in the lake; while glittering cascades of water streamed like tresses of a mermaid's hair down its sapphire sides. Then, having settled in a poise amid the dashing waves, it sailed away down to the south, a blue-crystal island, reflecting the cerulean heavens in its amethystine depths.

We cannot follow Curtis Benton day by



"I'M GOING BACK," SAID BILL SMITH, ONE OF THE THREE.

HE SANK DOWN BESIDE A HUGE BOULDER.

At length, utterly exhausted from his wearisome tramp over the rough and perilous path, he sank down beside a huge boulder to protect himself somewhat from the piercing winds which cut the April air like stinging dagger-points, as the loosening glaciers grinded against the rock, and filled the atmosphere with tiny particles of sharp, jagged ice-needles, which lacerated the flesh and nearly blinded the eyes of any unfortunate mortal venturing into that barren region.

But, notwithstanding all the terrible discomforts of his perilous situation, Benton was too much a child of nature to fail to observe the transcendent grandeur and beauty of the scene around him.

As the stars twinkled forth with a marvelous brilliancy, and the moon arose, turning the crystal cliffs into mountains of burnished silver; the grinding icebergs dashed the waters of the lake into fountains of iridescent spray as the iris colors of the lunar bows crowned the glittering water-shafts with glorious splendor. The thunder-booms of the rumbling icebergs formed a deep undertone for the tinkling notes of the chorus of diamond-drops mingling their prismatic hues with the crystal light of the snow-capped icebergs.

His stout heart took inspiration from the majestic grandeur spread before him. Taking a few bites from his precious morsel of frozen bacon, he pulled his fur cap over his face and sank to sleep on his snowy bed, lulled by the iceberg's solemn dirge. As he opened his eyes in the morning light, he was favored with one of the rare days of glowing sunshin, which now and then burst through

day, as he continued his terrible tramp for a whole month before he reached the mining-camp at Forty-mile creek. He had eaten the last remaining morsel of his stock of bacon the night before. He was without one cent of money. Therefore he must seek work from some one of the more prosperous miners at the camp. He worked from one end of the gulch to the other, always looking out for a chance to secure a claim of his own. But the short mining-season came to a close, and he was yet unsuccessful, and had only been able to get pay enough for his work to keep him in food. The mining business then became slack, and so Curtis, after all his hardships, was forced to turn away from the Alaskan gold-fields as poor as he came. He returned to California. But he had still his two strong hands and his stout heart. If he had failed in his dreams of gold, he determined not to be cheated out of his dreams of love.

CHAPTER II.

Again it was the month of April. But the scene was very different upon which Curtis Benton's eyes rested, as he sat in the moonlight, on the vine-shaded porch of a farm-house amidst the fruit orchards of southern California. The moon's rays fell not upon gleaming icebergs in the frozen Alaskan seas, but upon gardens of luxuriant bloom, where fragrant flowerets swung their nectar ceuser in the soft spring air, as their delicate incense perfumes were wafted upon the caressing breeze.

But Curtis Benton was not alone upon that blossom-embowered veranda. A slender fig-

ure, robed in a gown of pale pink, as delicate in shade, when the moonlight threw out its folds and tipt, as the roses twining amid the green vines over the trellis screen of the latticed porch, sat by his side.

Lovers they surely were; for her white hand lay like a snowy lily in the bronzed palm of her returned suitor.

"So you are not afraid to accept the humble place I can make for you, Edith, dear, since my gold scheme failed?" asked Curtis, with eyes riveted upon her face, illumined by the light of intelligence and love, which heightened the beauty of delicacy of feature and peach-bloom tints.

"Why, Curtis, I told you before you went to Alaska, last year, that I was no petted darling of the cities, who must be fed with a golden spoon. I am a mountain girl, remember, with a stout heart, a ready hand, and a strong arm. I don't marry you to be a drag upon your career."

"I know where we could get gold in plenty, in that Eldorado in the Arctic snows. But I love you too much to leave you again, even to seek the gold to give you ease and wealth. So we must jog along in a humble way, as fruit-farmers in this land of sunny skies, but no longer a land where fortunes can be made in a day, as in the time when California was the Eldorado of the West."

"But, Curtis, why can't we both go to Alaska, after we are married, and try our luck together?"

"Why, my dear girl, you don't know what you are talking about. Have I not told you enough of those terrible experiences of mine to show you that it would be impossible for you to undergo such privations?"

"Ah, you don't know of what heroic ancestry I come, and what great obstacles were overcome by my grandparents who came to this part of the world in that famous '49 in California's history. You see I inherit something of that same gold-fever, and I am ready to start to Alaska to-morrow, as soon as we are married in the little village church near by."

"Do you really mean it?" asked Curtis, with kindling eyes.

"Yes, I really mean it," said Edith Elwood, as she looked full in her lover's face with brave, true eyes lighted with dauntless courage.

Then she continued: "We are young and strong. We can but fail, and it will be time enough then to go on with this fruit-farming, which brings such slow returns. Not to hint that I would not be equally content to work with you here," she added, "if you think Alaska too chimerical."

"Oh, it is not chimerical in the least, darling; for I know just the spot where the gold lies buried which would make us rich enough for a lifetime; and had not my love for you constrained me to come back here, I would never have left Alaska without either reaching it or lying buried beneath the snows there, if my search had been in vain. I also come from an ancestry of stout hearts and adventurous spirits, but the dangers and the hardships, dear, are greater than ever your brave nature and sound health could stand, I fear."

"Let it be our wedding trip!" she cried, with joyful glee. "It will at least be novel. It is worth the trial. If it is not quick success, we shall have at least a novel honeymoon, and that will be worth a few discomforts."

"But, my dear girl, discomforts could be borne easily; but you've no idea of the awful hardships of such a trip."

"A faint heart never won a fair lady," say I," laughed she, gaily, looking into his eyes with coquettish archness; "and a faint heart never won a quick fortune; so if it's dare and endure, I'm ready, my lord cavalier; though it be not to be rescued from dragons and rivals, you can rescue me from iceberg monsters and Indian treachery."

She looked so radiantly saucy, so bewitchingly dauntless in her dainty rose-colored gown, as she had risen in her excitement and stood before him tall and resolute with her big purpose and towering ambition, that Curtis caught her in his arms, and—well—Cupid had a little skirmish with old Mammon, just then, and Cupid won; and lover's whispers and lover's eloquent silences filled that moonlight hour to the exclusion of dreams of gold and Mammon's alluring visions.

(To be continued.)

WHAT SCIENCE IS DOING

FOR THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION AND KINDRED DISEASES.

Medical science is making long strides these days. It is now the general consensus of opinion among physicians that Consumption can be cured, and if Consumption, why not Catarrh, Bronchitis, Asthma and other allied diseases? After the failure of many proposed methods the greatest interest now centers in what is known as the Pneumachemic Process, which is being rapidly adopted by physicians and from which wonderful results are reported. Many believe that the great problem has been solved and that this method will cure all cases not absolutely incurable. An opportunity is now given to the readers of this paper to investigate this discovery. All persons interested either on their own account or in behalf of relatives or friends may address Dr. John Robertson, The Lombardy, Cincinnati, O.

FATE.

Two shall be borne the whole wide world apart,
And speak in different tongues and have no thought
Each of the other's being, and no heed,
And these o'er unknown seas to unknown lands
Shall cross, escaping wreck, defying death,
And all unconsciously shape every act
And bend each wandering step to this one end—
That one day, out of darkness, they shall meet
And read life's meaning in each other's eyes.
And two shall walk some narrow path of life,
So nearly side by side, that should one turn
Ever so little space, to left or right,
They needs must stand acknowledged face to face,
And yet with wistful eyes they never meet,
With groping hands that never clasp, and lips
Calling in vain to ears that never hear,
They seek each other all their weary days,
And die unsatisfied. And this is Fate.

—Ella W. Wilcox.

TRAINING THE CHILDREN.

"John," said Mrs. Wisely to her liege lord, the other evening, "I want to have a very frank talk with you. Do you realize that the boys are old enough now to observe, and are beginning to form their characters?"

"Of course I do. Great boys."

"Yes, and we want them to be great men. They naturally look up to you, John, more than to anybody else. For their sakes you must be careful in what you do and say. You fell over a chair the other day and used some very improper language. I heard Willie repeat it when he stubbed his toe in the back yard."

"The little rascal! He didn't?" chuckled the father.

"Yes, John, and they pretend to smoke cigars and pour drinks from an imaginary decanter. Can't you set them a better example?"

"Say, little one, I heard Amy playing keep house one afternoon lately. When callers were announced she sent word that she was not at home. When she did consent to receive any one she combed them down to beat the band before they were admitted. One was an old frump, another was an intolerable bore, and a third better a good deal be at home cleaning house or looking after her children. You couldn't have done it better yourself."

"I see what you mean, sir. No use of rubbing it in. But wait, dear," in a softer voice. "Let's both do better. It's for their sakes, you know."

"I'll go you," and they shook hands.

As John left that evening he slipped up on the front steps and made the air blue. Around the corner he lit his cigar. Mrs. Wisely had some animated gossip with a neighbor. And yet the children seem to thrive.—Detroit Free Press.

THE SALT HABIT.

The use of salt as a condiment is so general and so universally believed in as necessary that we rarely hear a word against its excessive use, but there are a multitude of persons who eat far too much salt; eat it on everything—on meat, fish, potatoes, melons, in butter, on tomatoes, turnips and squashes, in bread, and on a host of foods too numerous to mention. To so great an extent is it used that no food is relished which has not a salty taste, and this hides more or less the real taste, which is often very delicate. Now, the amount of salt required in the system is comparatively small, and if the diet has been rightly compounded very little is necessary. Some go so far as to discard its use altogether, but whether this is wise or not we will not here consider. What are some of the evils of the excessive use of salt? They are to paralyze the nerves of taste, or to pervert them so that they cannot enjoy anything which has not a salty flavor, and in addition there is a direct tax on both the skin and the kidneys in removing it from the blood. Whether the skin is harmed by this tax we do not know. Possibly it is not greatly injured, yet we know that few people possess a healthy skin; but it is now pretty well settled that an excessive use of salt does overtax the kidneys in its removal, and that the great number of cases of derangement and disease of these organs is due to this use. It takes only a little time to learn to enjoy many kinds of food without salt, and we advise our readers and others to look into this matter and to try and diminish the use of this condiment as far as possible. We believe they will be better for it.—Journal of Hygiene.

ENORMOUS LAKE TRAFFIC.

The aggregate of traffic for the year on the lakes, not including Ontario, is estimated at from 45,000,000 to 50,000,000 tons, which is said to surpass that of any previous year and to exceed any record ever made anywhere in the world. The statistics of ship-building in the United States for 1896 show that more than half the new tonnage that year was built on the lakes, for lake navigation. Nearly a third of the tonnage owned in the United States and navigating both oceans, the gulf, the lakes and the rivers, is on the lakes, the total lake tonnage in 1896 being 1,324,067 tons. Great Britain, the foremost sea-power on the globe, has a merchant marine only ten times as great as the fleet that plies the American lakes, and France and Germany are the only other nations having a merchant fleet greater in tonnage than the lake fleet, neither of them surpassing it more than 50 per cent. The American merchant marine is not what it should be, considering the enormous foreign commerce of the coun-

try, but it is not the miserable affair that it is sometimes presumed. However, it is on the lakes that the fleet is best developed, and the result is apparent. Although navigation is open only about seven or eight months of the year, the greatest growth of the United States has been in the territory convenient to the lakes. The states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan, which border on the lakes, include two fifths of the population of the United States, and more than that portion of the wealth and business. The center of the United States, as far as importance is figured, will never move far away from that territory.

WINDMILLS.

The first barley-mill was introduced into Scotland from Holland by an ingenious mechanic named Andrew Meikle. But it was many years before the invention came into general use, owing chiefly to the superstitious prejudice of the country folk, who looked upon the grain thus cleaned with suspicion, as procured by "artificially created wind." The clergy even argued that "winds were raised by God alone, and that it was irreligious in man to attempt to raise the wind by his own efforts." Scott is evidently expressing the popular sentiment when, in "Old Mortality," he makes one of his characters chide those who would raise wind "by human art, instead of soliciting it by prayer, or waiting patiently for whatever dispensation of wind Providence was pleased to send upon the shealing-hill."

Stories are still told, in the neighborhood where Meikle lived, of the labor-saving contrivances he adopted in his own household. One day a woman came to the mill to get some barley ground, and was asked to sit down in the cottage, hard by, till it was ready. With the first sound of the mill wheels, the cradle

and the churn at her side began to rock and to churn, as if influenced by some supernatural agency. No one but herself was in the house, and she rushed from it, frightened almost out of her wits.

Such incidents brought an ill-name on Meikle, and the neighbors declared of him that he was "no canny."

He was often summoned to great distances, for the purpose of repairing pumps or setting mills to rights. On one occasion when he undertook to supply a gentleman's house with water, so many country mechanics had tried it before and failed that the butler would not believe Meikle when he told him to get everything ready, as the water would be sent in the next day.

"It will be time enough to get ready," said the incredulous butler, "when we see the water."

Meikle pocketed the affront, but set his machinery to work early the next morning; and so well did the engineer fulfill his promise that when the butler got out of bed he found himself up to his knees in water.

Meikle reaped no financial reward from his inventions; his name is scarcely mentioned in Scotch biography; yet the statement on the monument erected to his memory is literally true: "He rendered to the agriculturalists of Britain and of other nations a more beneficial service than any hitherto recorded in the annals of ancient or modern science.—Youth's Companion.

THE FUNNY-BONE.

That which is popularly known as the funny-bone, just at the point of the elbow, is in reality not a bone at all, but a nerve that lies near the surface, and which, on getting a knock or blow, causes the well-known tingling sensation in the arms and fingers.

COW-BELLS

One of the comparatively few things that the hand of improvement has not touched is the cow-bell, which is made now just as it was fifty, a hundred, and more years ago, and has now just the same peculiar clanking sound as ever. Cow-bells are made, some of copper and some of a composition metal; but most of them are made of iron and finished with a coating of bronze. The cow-bell is not cast; it is cut from a sheet of metal which is folded into shape and riveted. The metal loop at the top, through which the strap is passed, is riveted into the bell. Cow-bells are made in ten sizes, whose sounds range through an octave. Sometimes musical entertainers who play upon bells of one sort and another come to the manufacturer, and by selection among bells of the various sizes find eight bells that are accurate in scale.

There are only four factories in the United States in which cow-bells are made, and in each case the cow-bell is only an item of production among many other things. Cow-bells are sold all over the country just the same as ever, but much the greater number are sold in the South, and Southwest and the West, where farms are larger, less likely to be under fence, and cattle are more likely to stray. There are sold in those parts of the country a hundred dozen cow-bells to every ten dozen sold in the East. American cow-bells are exported to the various countries of South America and to Australia.

HIGH LIGHTS.

To err is human; but to flee the consequences is more so.

The woman who makes a man act like a fool always despises him for it.

Extreme amiability often does more harm in the home than a bad temper.

The hardest part of a bereavement is having to hear condolence callers tell about other funerals they have attended.—Chicago Record.

When Fashion Graced the Bowery

A Picture of Social Life in Old New York

By Mrs. Burton Harrison



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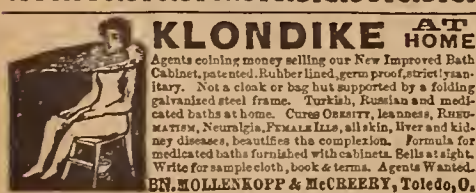
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SAVING TIME.

The electric-light on the lofty framework of great modern buildings under construction is now a familiar sight. The work goes on at night as well as by day, so that, with its new building completed, the valuable land shall as soon as possible again be made productive.

It is common now in busy streets to do work that involves tearing up the street pavements, on underground pipes, wires, and so on, at night, so that work may be done with the least interruption to traffic, and with the greatest facility, as far as the work itself is concerned.

And nowadays work on new pavements is carried on at night, to hurry it to completion, simply to save time. It may be, for example, that in a residence street two shifts of men are employed in laying an asphalt pavement, and the work goes right on continuously, day and night. One might look down this quiet street at three o'clock in the morning and see the men at work by the flaring naphtha torches, and the big steam roller moving hack and forth just the same as at three o'clock in the afternoon.

On occasion work on gas trenches and other street work is nowadays kept right on at night. And all these things are in keeping with the great modern tendency to save time, to utilize every minute, and to waste nothing. —New York Sun.

HISTORY OF IVORY.

The earliest recorded history—we might say prehistoric, the hieroglyphical—that has come down to us has been in carvings on ivory and bone. Long before metallurgy was known among the prehistoric races, carvings on reindeer horn and mammoth tusk evidence the antiquity of the art. Fragments of horn and ivory, engraved with excellent pictures of animals, have been found in caves and heds of rivers and lakes. There are specimens in the British Museum, also in the Louvre, of the Egyptian skill in ivory-carving, attributed to the age of Moses. In the latter collection are chairs or seats of the sixteenth century B. C., inlaid with ivory, and other pieces of the eleventh century B. C. We have already referred to the Nineveh ivories. Carving of the "precious substance" was extensively carried on at Constantinople during the middle ages. Combs, caskets, horns, boxes, etc., of carved ivory and bone, often set in precious stones, of the old Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, are frequently found in tombs. Crucifixes and images of the Virgin and saints, made in that age, are often graceful and beautiful. The Chinese and Japanese are rival artists now in their peculiar minutia and detail. —N. B. Nelson, in Appleton's Popular Science Monthly.

THE SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION OF ALASKA.

Prof. Angelo Heilprin, of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa., has organized an expedition for the scientific exploration of Alaska. Speaking of the undertaking, he stated that Lewis Nixon, the ship-builder, would construct a stern-wheel steamer of special design for navigating the Yukon river. The boat will be thirty feet long over all, fifteen feet beam, and three feet, ten inches deep. She will be built in ten sections entirely of steel, and it is estimated she will carry thirty-five tons on eighteen inches draft of water. The boat is to be completed within sixty days. It will be shipped across the continent by rail or else sent around the Horn on one of the many steamers bound for the Klondike. The light draft of this boat will enable the explorers to pull her up on the bank to transform her into a comfortable shore dwelling when winter surprises them.

BUDDHIST NUNS FROM ENGLAND.

A young English lady who has recently arrived in Bengal has decided to become a Yogi, or Hindu nun. She has already donned the other robes, and has chalked out a program of work to be carried on in India, the main object of which is the spiritual regeneration of Hinduism, which is much below par at present. She will establish a "convent" at Calcutta. It is likely that she will be joined by another English young lady, at present in London, who will come out soon. The lady who has already been converted to Vendantism is a graduate of Cambridge, and while in London was one of the leaders of the woman suffrage movement. —Bombay Advocate.

APPENDICITIS.

To those who are fond of fruit, but have been scared by stories about the causation of appendicitis, the following from Dr. Seaver, of Philadelphia, may be offered as words of comfort: "The idea that a foreign body must necessarily be present has given way before our more complete knowledge of the disease." And again: "In a vastly greater number of cases, however, it occurs through an eroded mucous membrane. The erosion is caused by masses of fecal matter, rarely by a foreign body."

I had a severe attack of Pneumonia. THE DOCTORS GAVE ME UP TO DIE. I THEN commenced taking Jayne's Expectorant and was completely cured. —JONATHAN REEVES, Hutchins, Texas, Nov. 6, 1896.

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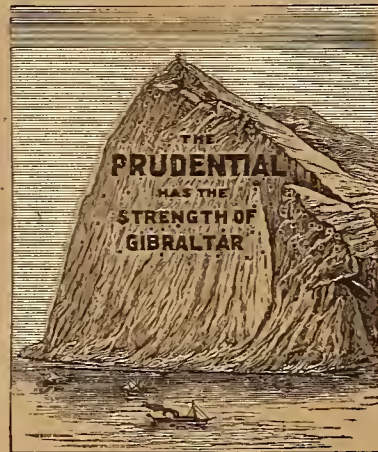
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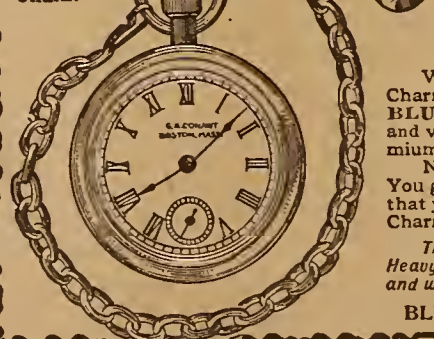
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Our Household.

WHEN THE TIDE IS LOW.

Some time at eve, when the tide is low,
I shall slip my mooring and sail away,
With no response to the friendly hail
Of kindred craft in the busy bay.
In the silent hush of the twilight pale,
When the night stoops down to embrace the day
And the voices call in the waters' flow—
Some time at eve, when the tide is low,
I shall slip my mooring and sail away.

Through purple shadows that darkly trail
O'er the ebbing tide of the Unknown sea,
I shall fare me away with a dip of sail
And a ripple of waters to tell the tale
Of a lonely voyager, sailing away
To Mystic isles, where at anchor lay
The craft of those who have sailed before
O'er the Unknown sea to the Unseen shore.

A few who have watched me sail away
Will miss my craft from the busy bay:
Some friendly harks that we anchored near—
Some loving souls that my heart held dear
In silent sorrow will drop a tear.
But I shall have peacefully furled my sail
In moorings sheltered from storm or gale,
And greeted the friends who have sailed before
O'er the Unknown sea to the Unseen shore.
—Lizzie Clark Hardy, in *The Watchman*.

ON HOMELY OBJECTS.

ANALYZE your tenderest memories of childhood; ten chances to one they cluster about some ordinary objects—your mother's work-basket, your father's walking-stick or your grandmother's button-bag. We cannot measure the influence of some of the most trivial details of our homes, and it seems to me well worth while to study both utility and beauty in home necessities, from the dish-pan up to the parlor draperies.

Half the secret of a tasteful and home-like room, be it kitchen or living-room, library or nursery, lies in arranging every detail with an eye to beauty as well as use. I well remember a remark which was made about a certain home under discussion:

"Even her button-box is something pretty, and she has a way of keeping everything unsightly put away in pretty receptacles of some sort."

This is a kind of covering-up which is not hypocrisy and is highly commendable. There is such genuine satisfaction in handkerchief-cases, which really hold handkerchiefs and are not just to be looked at; laundry-hampers which are fully equal to their burdens; work-baskets that do not perish with their using; shoe-boxes that can take in a goodly number, both as to size and quantity, and serve as comfortable seats in the bargain; match-holders that are thoroughly suited to their purpose, and so on "ad infinitum."

I believe in the dignity of labor, and our humblest household conveniences might represent the laboring class in household furnishings. Because its place is humble, my dust-pan shall not have a broken-down and altogether shabby air. It shall be a proud, clean dust-pan, and a fit companion for its associates. It will wear out, to be sure, but its last days, as well as its first, shall be honorable.

"Nothing too good to use, and nothing too useful to be good," shall be my motto in spite of failures in the practice.

We put up with homely, unsuitable utensils from sheer force of habit, and endure a great deal of unnecessary ugliness in household appointments.

I am not an advocate of hand-painted butter-bowls, decorated coal-tongs or satin-topped pincushions, but I do believe in giving every article of household utility just as much beauty as is in keeping with its dignity. Well-made iron-holders, soft-hemmed dust-cloths and the like will never do our work for us, but they will make a vast difference in the spirit with which we do it and the home atmosphere we create about us.

BERTA KNOWLTON BROWN.

LAME BREAD.

Louis loved to go to Pennsylvania to his grandfather's. He enjoyed the high hills, and he loved to sail his toy boats in the clear, beautiful streams that flowed about his grandfather's possessions, for he had much land. Then Louis was very happy as he went about with his grandfather while he attended to his great business. There were large buildings, which were tanneries, and strange piles of bark, and hides of animals, all of which never ceased to interest and amuse Louis.

In the house he had a grandmother and a great-grandmother. He did not understand about a great-grandmother, and as she was lame, he just called her lame grandma. She was getting old, and had nothing to do with the cooking and house-keeping, except there was one kind of bread she sometimes made, and of this Louis was very fond. He called it "lame bread," because his lame grandma made it. All the friends of the family took up Louis' name and called it "lame bread."

This is the way she made it: In so large a family there are always pieces of dry bread. The afternoon of a day she was going to make it for supper she would cover a certain quantity of bread with sour milk and let it stand to soften. After a time she would press it all through colander. If there was a quart of it she would beat into it a small teaspoonful of soda, or enough soda to sweeten it; then added a lump of butter or nice beef drippings the size of half an egg, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, and flour enough to make it the consistency of short-cake. Sometimes she added a little cinnamon, and it was ready to bake.

Get your mother or grandmother to make "lame bread" for you, and see how nice it is. You will not wonder that Louis loved "lame bread." MARY JOSLYN SMITH.

SHE HAD A DREAM.

SAW THE HOUR OF DEATH ON THE DIAL.—HOW SHE TURNED BACK THE HOUR OF FATE.—"BOX 475."

This is her story: the true story of a well known resident of Springfield. She believed, as so many women believe, that fate controlled her life, her fortune, and her future. She had been unhappy a long time. She had suffered a long time. She had vainly sought help here, there and yonder.



Day distressed her. Night no longer refreshed her, but brought only fitful slumber haunted by frightful dreams. It was the hand of fate, she said. She grew pale, fretful, haggard and tired of life. She drifted, drifted on into that wilderness of woman's woes that has driven thousands of her suffering sisters to the verge of self-destruction. Finally she came to look upon death alone as a source of relief. She hoped for it; longed for it. She courted the fateful hour. One night she awoke with a start. She dreamed that when the hand on the dial of the clock should point to the third hour of morning she would die. Often she had suffered agonies and wished for death, but now—it was so sudden, so near, so very near! In that moment life became inexpressibly dear. How long had she to live? With a cry she sprang from her bed and ran to the clock. It lacked ten minutes of three. Only a few minutes more of life! With frenzied haste she grasped the hand of the clock and pushed it back, back, back from the fateful number. Then she stopped and almost swooned—but no, the tick of the clock should not make a coward of her. She would die at the fated hour—fate had decreed it, but a few moments still remained. In that time she would take leave of those dear to her. Rushing to her writing-desk she seized her pen and attempted to write a note of farewell. It was useless. Words failed her. The blank sheet swam before her. Despairingly she turned her eyes from it to a newspaper that lay near at hand. In an instant her gaze was riveted by the letters which are printed below from Mrs. Anna Tuggle, of Cherokee City, Ark., Mrs. Emma Snyder, Box 475, Ames, Iowa,

and Mrs. White, of Stony Creek, N. Y. The reading of these letters brought new hope, new desires to live. She would make one more effort. She also would turn back the hand of fate and become a healthy, happy woman. That very hour she began the struggle. That very morning she began to use Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, and to-day there is no happier woman—no happier wife and mother—in all Springfield. This one woman is a type of thousands who suffer and submit in silence to the appalling fate which they, too, consider inevitable. For them all there is hope. For them all there is help. Let them

"Breathe the blows of circumstance
And grapple with their evil star."

Let them resolutely turn back the hand of fate that, according to their overwrought imagination, is stretched out against them. Many a woman to-day is suffering hourly pain, and sees the hand of death on the dial of time, who could be saved to a useful, happy life if by some means her attention could be drawn to the wonderful cures of woman's ailments wrought by Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. The difference between Dr. Pierce's treatment and all others is the difference between

EXPERIMENT AND EXPERIENCE.

A woman naturally shrinks from the experimental treatment which involves questionings and examinations that are repugnant to her delicacy and offensive to her modesty, and which at best result in mental misery and physical patchwork. And so she silently endures her suffering rather than submit to examinations and local treatment.

There is one man, and only one, who has responded to the cry of suffering womanhood, with practical discoveries—with practical advice—and that one man is Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y.

Just as Harvey stood alone as the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, and Jenner stood alone as the discoverer of vaccination, so Doctor Pierce stands alone in the matter of female ailments of every nature. Dr. Pierce's investigation of the cause and cure of female disorders led to the discovery of his "Favorite Prescription." It is a legally protected discovery—protected like the telephone and telegraph. It is protected by the U. S. government, not alone for the profit of the discoverer, but for the protection of the public from the base imitations that always follow a successful invention as the shadow follows the sun. In thirty years of practice as chief consulting physician to the Invalid's Hotel and Surgical Institute of Buffalo, N. Y., at the head of its staff of nearly a score of the most accomplished physicians, Dr. Pierce has acquired knowledge possessed by no other living physician and has become the most successful specialist in all female disorders. With him treatment begins not with experiment but with experience. He is familiar with every symptom of the disorders he treats. He knows just where to distinguish between symptoms that are purely sympathetic and the real symptoms indicative of the character of the disorder, and as a consequence his treatment goes to the root of the trouble and brings prompt and permanent relief and complete cure to the organs involved by disease.

Seventy per cent. of women suffer from female disorders in some form. It is this fact which accounts for the transformation of the

BRIDE IN HER BLOOM

to the sad and sickly mother. Disease is sapping the strength. The bright eyes become dull, and the healthy cheek grows pale and hollow, the smile gives place to the sigh, the feet drag, the upright carriage is lost and all the joy of motherhood and wifehood are changed to pain and sorrow.

The change that comes to women so afflicted after a course of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is marvelous. The gain is so gradual but so sure that as the days go by the returning strength is scarcely realized until emphasized by some unusual manifestation. One day, perhaps, the woman who dragged herself up-stairs with her hand on her side finds she has run up the whole flight and stands looking back in wonder. Another day

HER HUSBAND COMING HOME

hears his wife's laughter blending with the happy shouts of children, and creeping in, he finds the wife and children romping on the floor. He looks with surprise! Is this the woman who could scarcely stoop to pick her scissors from the floor where they fell? Is this the woman whose nerves revolted when the children shouted at

play? And so the record runs until life flows on in its right course through days of contented labor and nights of refreshing sleep. Children come at natural intervals and are welcome, so light is their footfall into the world. They are hearty children of a hearty mother. They inherit a healthy constitution and the diseases that carry off so many sickly little ones pass them by, the germs finding no lodgment in such healthy bodies.

These wonders are worked by Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Nature is always struggling to build up the wasted and worn system. But she cannot make bricks without straw. The "Favorite Prescription" supplies the material that nature can use to repair the waste of the system and renew the vitality of the debilitated organs. When this is accomplished health comes along natural channels and comes to stay.

Here are the three letters above referred to, which caused the Springfield lady to turn back the hand of fate and enjoy the blessings of life.

WAS FAST APPROACHING INSANITY.

"It gives me great pleasure to testify to the wonderful virtues of Dr. Pierce's family medicines," writes Mrs. Anna Tuggle, of Cherokee City, Benton Co., Ark. "Five years ago I was afflicted with a disease peculiar to my sex, with many complications. My heart was seriously affected and also my stomach and liver; had great nervousness, hypochondria, 'blues.' I can look back now and know that my mind was badly affected and that I was fast approaching insanity. Some of my symptoms (though I cannot remember them all) were aching pains just under edge of ribs and over stomach, with a feeling as if water or air was gathered there with a peculiar drawing sensation (which was a great source of annoyance to me) as well as pain. I also had dull pain in region of heart with a crawling or creeping feeling which annoyed me so much that it was with great difficulty I could keep from screaming. Would have sinking spells, nervous chills with coldness and numbness, loss of appetite, weakness, and weak and irregular heart action. Was treated by four physicians but they did not seem to know the cause of my trouble. Was sick for two years; had lost all hope of ever being well again. I wrote to Dr. R. V. Pierce describing my symptoms as best I could. He promptly answered all my letters and sent me a treatise on 'Woman and her diseases.' He also outlined a treatment for me. I commenced the use of his 'Favorite Prescription' and Dr. Pierce's Pellets. These medicines cured me and I am happy to say I was never better in my life than now."

THOUGHT WOULD NEVER BE WELL.

"I cannot find words strong enough to express sufficient praise of Doctor Pierce's medicines," writes Mrs. Emma Snyder, of Ames, Story Co., Iowa (Box 475). "After my little boy was born, in 1894, I was very weak and sick and could not keep anything on my stomach; I thought I would never be well again. My husband got me a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and before I had taken the third dose I was better, and when the medicine was all used I was well; could eat anything I wanted, and do all my housework. The past winter when I was suffering with female weakness and the many ailments due to pregnancy, I procured a bottle of 'Favorite Prescription' and was instantly relieved, and I know it saved me lots of suffering, as I was only in labor a short time and got along well. I have taken one bottle since baby was born (three weeks ago) and I am now doing all the housework for a family of six, besides caring for baby."

"IT DID WONDERS FOR HER."

"I never sent in a recommendation of a medicine before," writes Mrs. Betsey M. White, of Stonycreek, Warren Co., N. Y. "As I was reading some testimonials from your place I thought I would say a few words in praise of your 'Favorite Prescription.' It has done wonders in our house. My son's wife has been for years a great sufferer; all broken down and very weak and nervous. She was troubled with all the pains and aches that one so slender could endure. She took everything she heard of, hoping to get help, but in vain; so she tried Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and it did wonders for her. The doctors said she could not live to have another child as she came near dying so many times. This spring she had a nice boy weighing eleven pounds; she got through before we could get anyone there. I was afraid she would not live. We cried for joy when we saw how nicely she got along."

Our Household.

WOMAN'S WORK.

To wash and bake, to mend and make,
The steps of weary toil to take;
To cook and scour, to dust and sweep;
And all the house in order keep.
To rise at morn, and o'er and o'er
Do duties done the day before.
Yet know that in to-morrow's train
The same old tasks will come again.
And often to herself to say
The old, old lines, in weary way,
"From dawn of day till setting sun,
Woman's work is never done."

To watch and pray; to gladly take
Love's crosses for Love's crowning sake;
To joy and grieve; to smile and weep;
Her deepest thought in silence keep.
To teach and lead; to hope and trust;
Have trust betrayed—as woman must.
To gently chide; to cheer and bless
And bear with patient tenderness
Her burdens all—not shrink away,
But bravely look ahead and say,
"From dawn of life till setting sun,
Woman's work is never done."

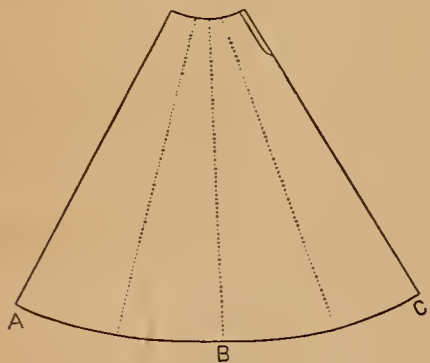
—A. H. J., in Michigan Farmer.

HOME TOPICS.

TOMATOES WITH ONION.—To make a variety. Sometimes prepare canned tomatoes for the table with a flavor of onion. Put a tablespoonful of butter in an agate saucepan, and in this fry a slice of onion until it is slightly brown. Add a teaspoonful of flour and stir until it is smooth, then pour in a quart of tomatoes. Stir all well together, season with salt and pepper, and as soon as it has boiled up well it is ready to serve.

WIRE HANGERS.—Wire coat-hangers have been in use for a long time; then some one discovered that they were just as serviceable for hanging ladies' dresses. At Christmas time some woman thought of the idea of covering the wire hangers with dainty ribbons or silk, and thus they were made pleasing enough for Christmas presents. I have seen some where the wire was simply wound around with ribbon; others, bags were made of silk, lined with perfumed cotton, slipped over the wire arms and tied with ribbons to the hook. The latest idea is to slip these cushioned hangers into dress-waists when packing them in a trunk for a journey.

I used to hang skirts by loops sewed to the band, but a friend who visited me last summer taught me a better way, and I have never had skirts keep their shape so well as since hanging them in this way. Fold the skirt with a fold in middle of front, A, and middle of back, C; then lay



it smoothly on a bed and fold the back, C, over to front, A; and lastly fold the back, C, back to B on one side, and the front, A, back to B on the other side; then pin a safety-pin through the folded band, and hang in that way in the closet. This is also the best way to fold a skirt for packing, afterwards folding it down the required length for the trunk. The dotted lines show where it is to be folded.

CHILD-TRAINING.—One thing that is often neglected in a child's early training is his sense of duty. Too often his inclination is consulted, until he thinks he need do nothing but what he likes to do; or when unpleasant tasks are required he is taught to expect a reward, and thus he misses a discipline that is needed to prepare him for after life. If adult men and women consulted only their inclination, or did nothing unless the reward was in sight, much of the world's work would remain undone. The inexorable laws of existence, which are our Master's, will just as surely meet our children as they grow up. Would it not be better, then, to gradually lead them up to it by early training them to do things because they ought, because it is right for them to do them? Very early in life let each child have some daily duties which must be faithfully performed, and

the responsibility of which rests wholly on them.

Make your children's lives just as happy as it is possible; shield them from unnecessary grief, and keep them always surrounded by an atmosphere of love and tenderness, but remember that with a child, as with adults, true happiness does not consist in self-gratification. Do not cheat them out of the pleasure that comes from the consciousness of duties done. The habit of doing what one ought to do, whether he wants to do it or not, will be pretty certain to form a character for honor and rectitude which will make its possessor a citizen, honored among his associates and a blessing to the world in the sphere in which he moves, be it great or small.

MAIDA McL.

STYLISH LINGERIE.

Chemise, Umbrella-drawers, Underbodice.

It is well to have the muslin work out of hand before the warm weather begins to come—in the time between housecleaning; for when those days break upon us the calls about the house and garden find us too busy to sew. A good plan is to only add to the wardrobe enough new articles to last until next year, as muslin yellows so by lying away.

Chemise are to be worn again, and many are making them of India linen and other thin stuffs. The pattern that makes the least bunch around the waist is preferable.

No one who has ever worn the umbrella-



drawers cares to go back to the old pattern; the freedom over the knee makes them very comfortable. Ruffling with tatting on the edges is being prepared for use upon them. These little trimmings can be made during the long evenings.

A new style of underbodice is here presented. It is made like a baby-waisted dress, but is not confined with a belt or drawing-string. The white skirt is put on over its fullness, and then the gathers are arranged by hand. This is very effective under a thin waist.

The combination of lace and insertion can be left to the taste of the wearer. In one the fullness in the neck is drawn up with baby ribbon. In the other the neckband is tucked and hemstitched and made to fit exactly. Many pretty ways can be planned from these ideas. B. K.

FLANNELS.

At the approach of warm spring days flannel underwear becomes very uncomfortable to some people, and the impulse to discard it for thin, cotton ones is very strong.

In a changeable climate it is rarely wise or safe to make such a change until May or



June. For people in delicate health, lightweight flannels are recommended for entire summer wear.

If thin, cotton gauze underwear is worn beneath the flannel there is no noticeable additional warmth to clothing, and the

irritation of the skin is avoided. A similar result is obtained if the woolen is ironed upon the wrong side while damp, thus pressing down the fuzzy thread which sometimes prove so irritating to a tender skin. The cotton gauze is the most sure preventive of trouble, and some are thus enabled to wear the needed flannel who could not endure it for a day without.

After washing flannels shake them thoroughly until the steam is gone, and dry in a warm atmosphere. Freezing shrinks them for me, although my neighbor insists that it does not thus affect them usually. When she washes for me my flannels come back shrunken, when they are laundered at home they are all right; one dries them in freezing atmosphere, the other in the house.

When flannels are packed away, do it so thoroughly no moth-millers can get to them.

Also see that all necessary repairing is done before packing, that when wanted in the fall at the first cold snap there is not a half day's work in mending to do before one can be comfortable. If new flannels will be needed another season, it is economy to purchase them in the spring, as the

When the temperature is higher than this the gluten is injured and the bread is not so nourishing. When left to rise all night, this wise little princess, who has studied chemistry, knows that decay sets in, and the bread is not fit to eat. So the princess lets her golden loaf rise three hours, when,



with the help of two yeast-cakes, it should be perfectly light.

To mix the bread with uniformity, and to toughen the gluten so that it may hold more lightness, the princess now kneads her bread. To stand off from the molding-board, or stretch out one's hands a long ways to the bread, lames the back, and is perfectly exhausting. But the joyful little princess knows a better way. She stands close to the board and swings her body lightly with the motion of the dough. So that the work of kneading is healthful and refreshing as any Delsarte exercise.

When shaped into five loaves, her bread is set to rise again at a temperature of seventy-five degrees, then baked an hour in an oven hot enough to brown flour in three minutes. The pretty, golden-brown loaves are now set to cool across the tins, and then put away in a tin box which is ventilated with holes through the top. The princess never wraps her bread in a cloth, which is dreadful, because it shuts in the carbonic acid gas and spoils the flavor.

This loaf of good bread will keep ten days, but it never does keep ten days, because it is so delicious to eat. A man whose wife made this cooking-school bread said of it, heartily, "It is the best product of the earth."

The cost of this loaf is just three cents. It will cut into forty slices of bread for sandwiches, or the same material can be molded into little twisted rolls which sell for two or three cents apiece.

These facts are given by Mrs. Emma P. Ewing, who is so noted as a teacher of cooking in this country. Mrs. Ewing says, furthermore, that any strong, healthy woman, willing to do her own work, can easily earn five dollars a day making good bread.

When bad cookery leads so directly to disease and intemperance, when it is known to be one of the worst foes our modern civilization has to contend with,

THE GOLD LOAF.

There is a pretty fairy tale about a young princess whose cruel stepmother bade her make a gold loaf of bread every day or starve to death. Of course, the fairy godmother came just in time to show what magic could be wrought with wheat flour, milk and water; and the prince fell in love with the princess at the first taste of the golden loaf.

This little princess is the new woman who never laughs about fairy stories, but goes seriously and earnestly to work to find out how they may come true. From her miller at home the princess procures the best high-grade, patent flour, because she knows the best flour will go further in making bread than poor flour. To one pint of milk and one pint of water she adds two yeast-cakes and enough flour so that the bread will roll on the board without sticking. The princess finds it cheaper to use two yeast-cakes instead of one, because the bread is so much better.

Having studied the chemistry of food, the most fascinating science a woman ever looked into, the princess does not put any grease or shortening of any kind into her bread, because she knows this would clog the cells and delay fermentation. Neither does she add any sugar, for her bread, with its nut-brown crust, will be sweet enough without it. She does add a teaspoonful of salt.

The princess now sets her bread to rise at a temperature of seventy-five degrees.

why is it that some of our sensible, bright young girls do not learn the mystery of the gold loaf, and make life a more blessed thing for themselves and their neighbors? FRANCES BENNETT CALLAWAY.

THROAT TROUBLES. To allay the irritation that induces coughing, use "Brown's Bronchial Troches." A simple and safe remedy.



MORE ABOUT SWEET PEAS.

So much has already been said in reference to the culture of sweet peas, it would seem as if there were nothing more to learn upon that subject; but from one who last season had unusually good luck in cultivating them an additional word may be found of use.

In the first place, without any intention of starting a new fashion, but because it was more convenient to do so, our seeds were planted the second week of April, instead of in March, as the rules enjoin. Therefore we were happily surprised to see the little shoots above ground as soon as any in the neighborhood, and just as green and thrifty. I think this is worth knowing, for too often health and comfort, if not life, are imperiled by remaining out of doors in chilly March days and digging in the cold, wintry soil to find a lodgment for the seeds of future sweet peas.

We had selected two locations, and for two reasons. First, we wanted a goodly number of flowers, and also wished to be able, at the end of the season, to compare the relative advantages of the sites. One was

and our "Florida," as a summer resort, was duly abandoned. In short, it was the old story of the "hare and the tortoise" over again, only in this case the "hare" fell by the wayside early in August, while the "tortoise" never entered the home-stretch until October.

Through August, September and the first half of October our "New England" pea-vines were the wonder and admiration of the neighborhood. Water without stint was poured upon them every day; the blossoms were picked daily, and as the nights grew chilly the vines were carefully protected from the insidious approaches of Jack Frost. On the twentieth of October we gathered the latest blossoms and allowed the vines, still green and flourishing, to be pulled down in order to prepare the ground for use another season.

LILLA A. WHITNEY.

MEXICAN DISHES.

In California and the states bordering on Mexico many of the dishes show a decided Mexican or Spanish origin, with their frequent admixture of garlic, pepper and onions. A Spanish omelet is very nice, and is made this way: Take

- 8 medium-sized potatoes,
- 8 eggs,
- 1 teacupful of cold boiled ham, minced, or 1 cupful of shrimps,
- 2 large chilli-peppers,
- ¼ spoonful cayenne pepper,
- 1 large onion or 2 garlic-buttons, chopped.

Put warm water over the chilli-peppers, and let them stand until they can be reduced to a pulp. Peel and boil the potatoes, mash them, season with a small lump of butter, and salt and pepper (black) to taste, whip very light, add the other ingredients, including the beaten eggs; put a little butter in a saucepan, turn in the mixture, give it the shape of an omelet, and fry a light brown color.

Americanized tamales are made thus: Use half a cupful of cold boiled chicken, chopped fine, the same of chopped veal, and half as much ham. Moisten with the liquor in which the veal and chicken were boiled, and season with salt and pepper. Make a dough by pouring a cupful of boiling water upon a quart of fresh corn-meal, work in a lump of butter the size of a walnut, and add water, as necessary, till the paste is the consistency of biscuit-dough. Have ready the inner husks of corn. Take a lump of the dough, pat it out into a thin, flat cake, put a spoonful of the meats on it, roll them together, then roll it tightly in the corn-shucks; tie the ends of the shucks together in a knot to keep the tamales from coming open. Boil for twenty minutes in a pot of water containing two or three red pepper pods. Serve hot, with the husks opened and the tamales piled on a napkin.

The real Mexican tamales, which vendors sell upon the streets, are made a little different from the above, and this recipe is used: Boil two pounds of corn and a handful of lime in water enough to cover until the skins of the corn are loosened, then wash the lime from the corn, and grind the

latter very fine. Boil a little more than three pounds of beef, and mix the liquor in which the beef was boiled with the ground corn, adding very nearly a pound of firm lard and salt to taste. Having ready a pound of boiled red peppers, remove the seeds and skins and grind the peppers fine, add a garlic-button (chopped) and half a pound of ground chillies. Mix this preparation with the beef, add salt to taste. Fill wet corn-husks with the mixture, alternately, with the meal and beef, tie up, and boil for from forty-five minutes to an hour in a gallon of water. When all are half done turn the top ones over.

MRS. W. L. TABOR.

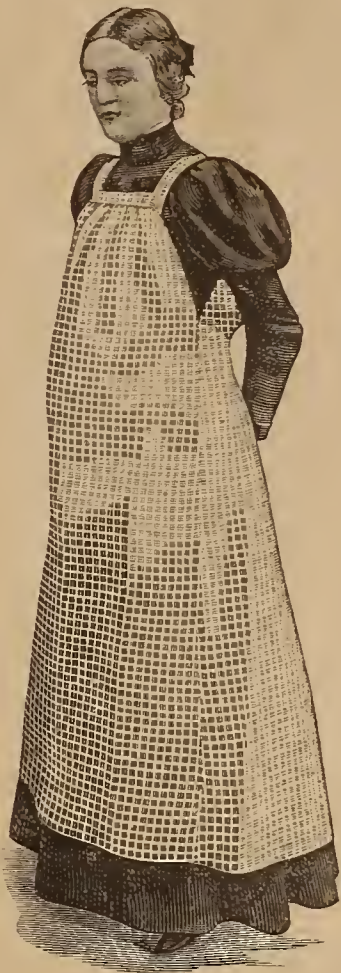
APRONS.

With the renewal of old fashions, the one of always wearing an apron in the house is coming back. Our grandmothers used to wear three at a time—the domestic apron of gingham outside to perform one's work in, which was snatched off quickly to reveal a white one underneath, if a neighbor came in to chat awhile, which

in turn was hastily disposed of to show a black silk one, if the minister called.

The domestic apron illustrated is two breadths of gingham the required length, one breadth in front, and the other split for the back. The original way in which it is attached to the shoulder-bands will commend itself to every one.

A very pretty white apron for donning when one wishes to wait on table, and the apron must cover a good dress, is shown made with a yoke, to fit neatly. The body and skirt is in one piece, and the



belt brought around from the back and buttoned at one side to confine the fullness.

The little apron for slipping on when one wishes to sew is made of organdie and trimmed in various styles. The one illustrated is trimmed with narrow, black velvet ribbon and velvet bows at the waist; but it can be trimmed with an openwork heading, with baby ribbon run through above the ruffle, and forget-me-nots worked upon the ruffle. Or the ruffles can be of coarse footing or net, with several rows of colored silks run in it.

A pretty apron is always a becoming article of wearing apparel.

REX.

MRS. PETERSON'S STORY.

I have suffered with womb trouble over fifteen years. I had inflammation, enlargement and displacement of the womb.

The doctor wanted me to take treatments, but I had just begun taking Mrs. Pinkham's Compound, and my husband said I had better wait and see

how much good that would do me. I was so sick when I began with her medicine, I could hardly be on my feet. I had the backache constantly, also headache, and was so dizzy. I had heart trouble, it seemed as though my heart was in my throat at times choking me. I could not walk around and I could not lie down, for then my heart would beat so fast I would feel as though I was smothering. I had to sit up in bed nights in order to breathe. I was so weak I could not do anything.

I have now taken several bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and used three packages of Sanative Wash, and can say I am perfectly cured. I do not think I could have lived long if Mrs. Pinkham's medicine had not helped me.—MRS. JOSEPH PETERSON, 513 East St., Warren, Pa.



on the south side of the house, where the sun shines all day long; the other at right angles just around the corner, on the east side, and entirely protected from the afternoon sun. On the south side wire netting was used for the growing vines to run upon, while on the east, stakes about five feet in length were driven into the ground, and from one to another of these cords were stretched.

These two locations were called "Florida" and "New England," respectively, and when later in the season bouquets were brought into the house on short notice, the different members of the family were requested to don the "guessing-cap" and name the country whence they came. This was not at first difficult to do, for all the larger, handsomer blossoms grew in "Florida," of course, but as the season advanced a change became apparent, and "New England" began to assert herself.

That household voice which had sung loudest and longest the praises of "Florida sun" and "Florida soil" became strangely silent, while solitary journeys to these respective countries, and furtive comparisons of the flowers grown in each, came to be a daily occupation. Evidently, also, a struggle to attain that amiable and submissive state of mind in which an anticipated "I told you so" might fall sweetly on the ear was taking place.

The "Florida" sweet peas grew smaller and smaller, and the vines began to die from the roots upward. Early in August the last blossoms were gathered, the vines themselves torn down and taken away,



LINENE Collars and Cuffs.

Stylish, convenient, economical, made of fine cloth and finished alike on both sides. Reversible and give double service.

No Laundry Work

When soiled on both sides, discard. Ten Collars or five pairs of cuffs, 25c. Send 6c. in stamps for sample collar and pair of cuffs. Name size and style. REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., DEPT. C, BOSTON.



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Our Household.

WOOD-CARVING.

No. 1.

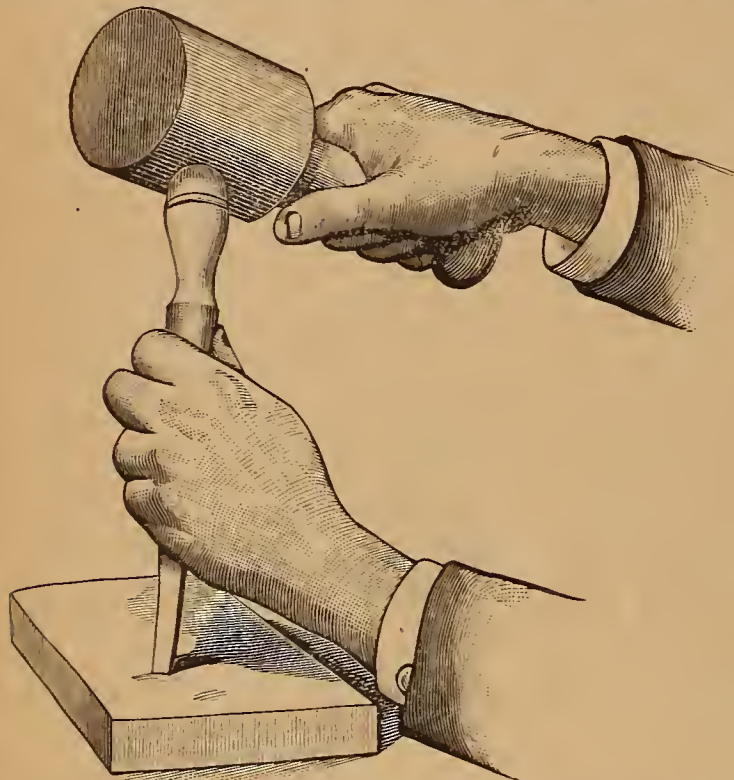
EVERY time a man comes into the conscious enjoyment of a new activity he is armed with a new weapon against vile lusts and irregular appetites."

The above quotation is taken from an instructive and inspiring book, "The Social Spirit in America," which belongs to the Chautauqua course of study, and therefore may be familiar to many readers of FARM AND FIRESIDE. The book mentioned, with all recent treatises on popular education,



advocates strongly the value of manual training, and considers any school incomplete which does not instruct in modeling, carving, drawing and painting. The trained hand with the trained eye, the strong body with the strong mind, have always been the ideal of education, and our modern school methods are doing much to make this ideal a reality.

The instructions which I shall give in wood-carving may help some one who has not opportunity to learn in a school. First,



tools. As every one knows, it pays to buy the best of steel, which lasts longer than the brief span of time allotted to a human generation. Therefore, if you intend to buy a set of tools, get the best, which, usually, are of English make. The tools made in America are also good. If by chance you obtain a set of tools as a premium for a club of subscribers to some periodical, make use of them. They may not be indestructible, but give them a trial. Generally when you buy your tools at the hardware-store they will need to be set in handles and sharpened on a grindstone. During the process of carving, whenever your tools become dull, stop, sharpen the edges on a whetstone, and give them a final touch on a leather strap.

An important tool is called the parting-tool. When you look directly at its edge it has the shape of a V, and for that reason is known as the V-tool. It is used for cutting grooves. The learner should try first only short, shallow grooves running either straight with the grain of the wood or across it. Further practice will enable the carver to guide the V-tool in curves, spirals and circles. Care must be taken not to let the tool penetrate too deeply into the wood. Indeed, the beginner cannot be cautioned too frequently to make his work delicate, not deep.

The other tools are chisels, flat gouges and hollow gouges. When held upright and struck with the mallet these tools make cuts which are shown you in the illustration. The sizes indicated will be well to select, besides a chisel three fourths of an inch wide, and perhaps a large, flat gouge. As you proceed in experience you can add tools to your collection. These cost about half a dollar apiece.

You will need a wooden mallet. In the illustration accompanying this article, which shows the position of the hands in carving, you can see the mallet, which

resembles an old-fashioned potato-masher. You can use that kind or one like a croquet-mallet, with a handle about as long as an ordinary hatchet.

It is necessary to have a pair of clamps to hold your wood fast to the work-table at which you will seat yourself. Iron clamps, such as women use to fasten the corners of their quilting-frames, are the best, because they take up little room; but wooden clamps will answer the purpose.

The next article will tell you how to use the outfit above described. K. K.

A WORD TO THE SLEEPLESS.

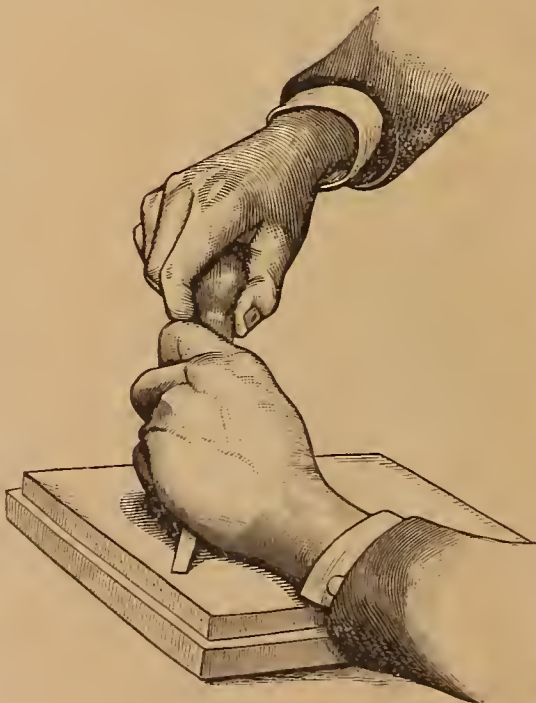
Insomnia seems to be now a universal affliction. We live wrongly; sit up late and overwork the brain, and then go to bed in an excited condition. No one seems to have hit upon the natural remedy. I think I have. People take chloral and the like at their peril, and the fatal consequence not seldom ensues. It is all wrong, for you cannot control the dose required for the exact circumstances. But try nature's plan instead; lower the supply of oxygen to the blood, produce a little asphyxia, limit the quantity of air to the lungs, and the heart and circulation becoming quicker, the brain loses its stimulant and sleep follows. When you find yourself "in" for a sleepless night, cover your head with the bed-

clothes and breathe and rebreathe only the respiring air. Thus you may reduce the stimulating oxygen and fall asleep. There is no danger. When asleep you are sure to disturb the coverings and get as much fresh air as you require; or when once drowsiness has been produced, it is easy to go on sleeping, though the air be fresh. What do the cat and dog do when they prepare to sleep? They turn around, generally three times, and lastly bury their noses in some hollow in their hair, and "off" they go. They are in no danger, although it might look as if they were from

the closeness which they embed their noses.—Hall's Journal of Health.

TIRED WOMEN.

On my way to our nearest city a few days since, while aboard a fast train crowded with passengers, who, like myself, were intent upon doing some shopping, I, having no companion to converse with, took to studying faces. There were some blooming and youthful faces plainly showing



that the cares of life sat lightly upon them, but there were others more mature in years who had especially a tired air about them, showing itself not only in pallid complexions, but in the wearied lines around the mouth and eyes. It, of course, was impossible to associate this appearance with happy lives, and yet from dress and manner the majority appeared to be comfortably placed all in this world. Al-

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though they were entire strangers to me, yet I could not resist, all the same, speculating to myself on the cause of so many faded countenances and weary expressions in women who had scarce reached middle age.

Before I reached my destination I came to the conclusion that modern methods have not eased the care of wife and mothers whose duties have developed with the growth of sons and daughters and the calls of society. My mind involuntarily turned back to the days of yore, when children were expected to be helpful to their parents, as well as obedient; when husbands only expected their regular three meals a day; then the duties of woman were very

much simpler than at the present time. The mother's time was not devoted entirely to the calls of society, and people were not always, as now, developing new ideas in the way of diversion that upset the regular routine of the household. At the present time things are entirely different. The mother has no time for herself, but is actually at the beck and call of all belonging to her from early morning until late at night. Is it any wonder, then, that she is worn and weary and falls into a state of nervous expectation, brought about by the knowledge that there will be something for her to do in a minute, even if there is nothing calling for attention just now?

A. C. B.

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Our Sunday Afternoon.

NONE OF OUR BUSINESS.

[A little girl was heard to finish her evening prayer with these words: "And I saw a poor little girl on the street to-day, cold and barefooted; but it's none of our business, is it, God?"]

"None of our business!" wandering and sinful,
All through the streets of the city they go,
Hungry and homeless in the wild weather—
None of our business! Dare we say so?

"None of our business!" Children's wan faces,
Haggard and old with their suffering and sin,
Hold fast your darlings on tender, warm
bosoms,
Sorrow without, but the home light within.

What does it matter that some other woman—
Some common mother—in bitter despair,
Walls in a garret, or sits in a cellar,
Too broken-hearted for weeping or prayer?

"None of our business!" Sinful and fallen,
How they may jostle us close on the street!
Hold back your garment! Scorn? They are
used to it;
Pass on the other side lest you should meet.

None of our business! On, then, the music;
On with the feasting, though hearts break
forlorn;
Somebody's hungry, somebody's freezing,
Somebody's soul will be lost ere the morn.

Somebody's dying (on with the dancing!);
One for earth's pottage is selling his soul;
One for a bauble has bartered his birthright,
Selling his all for a pitiful dole.

Ab, but One goeth abroad on the mountains,
Over lone deserts, with burning deep sands!
Seeking the lost ones (it is His business!)
Bruised though his feet are, and torn though
his hands.

Thorn-crowned his head and his soul sorrow-
stricken,
(Saving men's souls at such infinite cost),
Broken his heart for the grief of the nations;
It is His business saving the lost!

BEHAVIOR AT CHURCH.

THERE is no law in this country requiring any person to attend divine worship, but there is a law requiring those who attend to behave themselves in a becoming manner. Strange as it may seem to young people, there are men and women who attend church for the sole purpose of worshiping God, and it is to protect this class from being disturbed in their devotions that laws are enacted to regulate the conduct of those who attend to while away the time, see who else is there, or for any other purpose than divine worship. As a rule, there is no malice in the one who misbehaves, but just a reckless disregard of the proprieties of the place and the rights of others, and this makes it all the harder to control. If a man or woman were to wilfully or contemptuously disturb a religious assembly, almost any law-abiding citizen would be ready to prosecute, but where the disturbance is the result of whispering, tittering and laughing, even church officials are slow to enforce the law, chiefly on account of others, whose feelings they do not wish to wound.

CHRISTIANITY.

Christianity is perfectly and exactly adapted to the condition and moral necessities of man; and must therefore be of divine origin. We have seen that man has invented other systems, and that they have all failed of meeting these ends. When, therefore, we have discovered one which does exactly meet them, it is a reasonable conclusion that it is not of man, but of God. It is plain, also, that to desire and develop such a system is entirely beyond the power of man. None could know how so perfectly to adapt a system of religion to the nature, condition and wants of any being as he who created him. Besides, there is a perfection in Christianity which appertains not to the works of imperfect man. It is complete in its plan, and perfect in its details. Who but God could produce such a system.—Geo. A. Collins.

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PRAYER FOR STRENGTH.

If you have any trial that seems intolerable, pray—pray that it be relieved or changed. There is no harm in that. We may pray for anything, not wrong in itself, with perfect freedom, if we do not pray selfishly. One disabled for duty by sickness may pray for health, that he may do his work; or one hemmed in by internal impediments may pray for utterance, that he may serve better the truth and the right. Or, if we have a besetting sin, we may pray to be delivered from it, in order to serve God and man, and not be ourselves Satans to mislead and destroy. But the answer to the prayer may be, as it was to Paul, not the removal of the thorn, but, instead, a growing insight into its meaning and value. The voice of God in our soul may show us, as we look up to him, that his strength is enough to enable us to bear it.—J. F. Clarke.

HOW TO HAVE POWER.

If you want power with God, come out and be separated. Let us not be swept away by the love of money or the spirit of the age. Let us not be catering to public opinion. If we live for God we may expect people to say, "Oh, he is a narrow, bigoted man. I believe we are to go in and be yoked up with unbelievers, and get into all these lodges and societies, and lift them up in that way." I suppose Lot talked that way when he went to Sodom; but Sodom dragged him down, and we have no record that he lifted anybody up. So compromise with the world has always dragged the church down. If you want to be right with God, you want to be where you can testify against the sins of the world.—D. L. Moody.

THE DRIFT OF THE TIMES.

The present is an age of flippant preaching. Men handle the word of God with no more reverence than they would of one of Burns' poems or Shakspeare's plays. Sermons are punctuated with sharp sayings, stale anecdotes and exaggerated statements. All of these things may strike the minds of sinners as bright, entertaining and agreeable, but they are not the things to most deeply impress the soul with divine truth. The manner of him who stands in the pulpit to represent God to men should indicate gravity, solemnity, reverence and deep earnestness, to show sinners the evil of their doings, and impress all with the awful importance of the gospel message.

WORK FOR GOD.

And do not expect immediate results. Immediate results are not worth working for. History is long, and is slow; but the clock keeps ticking, and the brook keeps flowing. Do something, and do it in a straight line, and if you do not at last get to finish it, God will top it out, or get some one to. Very likely your own inspiring activity will be just the influence that will create the discipleship that will take up the work and carry to completion the enterprise which you inaugurated; something as the quickening spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ endowed the twelve with the power and wisdom to complete what their ascended Lord but began.—C. H. Parkhurst.

NATURE'S STORY.

Not a blade of grass but has a story to tell; not a heart but has its romance; not a life which does not hide a secret which is either its thorn or its spur. Everywhere grief, hope, comedy, tragedy; even under petrification of old age, as in the twisted forms of fossils, we may discover the agitations and tortures of youth. This thought is the magic wand of poets and preachers; it strips the scales from our fleshy eyes, and gives us a clear view into human life; it opens to the ear a world of unknown melodies, and makes us understand the thousand languages of nature.—Amiel.

HOW TRUE.

Too long have we been willing to put that kingdom which Christ came to found away beyond the stars; to interpret all his glowing words about it as the description of some visionary state which has no relation to this world. That was not the purpose of his mission; that is not the meaning of his gospel. In his prayer there is no intimation of a wish that we may go to heaven; it is a prayer whose sole burden is that heaven may be brought to earth.—Dr. Washington Gladden.



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Our Miscellany.

WHEN a woman looks at a man he never knows whether she is admiring him or thinking how homely he is.—Atchison Daily Globe.

LOOK not mournfully into the past—it cometh not again; wisely improve the present—it is ours; go forth manfully to meet the future.

JUST now several newspapers are discussing reform in base-ball. Three months hence the mob will be attacking the umpire, as usual.—St. Paul Daily Globe.

EIGHT years ago this country imported \$20,000,000 worth of iron and steel products more than we sold, and now the balance in our favor in the same articles is \$30,000,000 a year.

"NAN and I are getting up a 'Don't Worry' club."

"Don't worry about what?"

"Don't worry about other people's troubles."—Chicago Record.

"Now, honor bright, is Dingley responsible for the snow-storm?"—Peoria Herald.

We must admit he put ice on the free list, and there snow use denying that the Dingley Tariff reigns.—Burlington Hawkeye.

OUT of the forty-five states of the Union there are five—New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and South Carolina—in which the legislature meets annually. In some states the duration of the session is limited to sixty days and in others to less. In New York there is no restriction.

THE English language as "made in Germany" can hardly be considered an improvement on the domestic production. Upon a sample card of assorted pins which recently passed through the New York custom-house is printed the following: "This Prize Pin Card contains an assortment of Pins which no Ladies cannot have in her dressing-room."

MAKING WAR ON THE INTERURBAN ELECTRIC ROADS.

The C. H. & D. Ry. have received a telegram from Mr. John W. Hill, Consulting Engineer for the Traction Company, who is in Philadelphia in company with Mr. Frank Miller, Traveling Engineer of the C. H. & D. Ry., to inspect the motor-car which is being built for them by the Baldwin Locomotive Works. Hill wires under date of January 24th, "Motor-car tested with load 36 tons; run 36 miles without touching the fire. Retained steam pressure between 160 and 180 lbs. Made speed at the rate of a mile in one minute and 53 seconds. Grades favorable to the car. Will make test under opposite conditions to-day."

From this report it is evident that the Baldwin people have succeeded in turning out about such a car as is wanted. This car will mark a great advance in the handling of suburban traffic by steam railroads.

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

The Acme Harvester Co., Pekin, Ill. Handsome illustrated catalogue of headers, binders, mowers and haying machinery.

George H. Stahl, Quincy, Ill. Illustrated descriptive catalogue of the Excelsior incubators and brooders and poultrymen's supplies.

Charles Gammerdiuger, Columbus, Ohio. Illustrated catalogue of pure-bred poultry of many varieties.

Christian Weckesser, Niagara Falls, N. Y. Catalogue of seeds, plants, etc., and the Bemis transplanting machine.

Sunset Seed and Plant Co., San Francisco, Cal. Catalogue of selected seeds direct from the growers.

C. B. Green, Sedalia, Mo. Manual on progressive fruit-growing—instructions for growing pedigree plants.

D. N. Long, La Salle, N. Y. Descriptive circular of acetylene, the new illuminating gas, and the Niagara generator.

C. M. Winslow & Son, Brandon, Vt. Milk record of Ayrshire herd for 1897.

Nanz & Neuner, Louisville, Ky. Illustrated catalogue of flower and vegetable seed.

The George A. Sweet Nursery Co., Dansville, N. Y. Catalogue and price-list of trees direct from grower to planter.

E. J. Hull, Olyphant, Pa. Catalogue of ninety-nine varieties of strawberry-plants.

H. R. Cotta, Freeport, Ill. Illustrated catalogue of choice fruits. Specialties—Columbian raspberry and Briton blackberry.

The Storrs & Harrison Co., Painesville, Ohio. Nursery, floral and seed catalogue. Plants, trees, vines and seeds by mail a specialty.

W. N. Scarff, New Carlisle, Ohio. Fruit catalogue of latest things out.

Harry N. Hammond, Decatur, Mich. Catalogue of Michigan-grown seed-potatoes, farm, garden and flower seeds. Specialty—Early Michigan potato.

R. H. Shumway, Rockford, Ill. Shumway's illustrated garden guide.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Burpee's unique list for 1898 of best seeds that grow.

A. W. Livingston's Sons, Columbus, Ohio. Livingston's seed annual for 1898. Specialties—Choice new tomatoes and potatoes, and the Mammoth egg-plant.

Miss C. H. Lippincott, Minneapolis, Minn. Beautifully illustrated catalogue of flower-seeds.

Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y. Supplementary nursery catalogue of novelties and specialties, illustrated with half-tone engravings.

W. F. Allen, Jr., Salisbury, Md. Catalogue of choice strawberry-plants. Glen Mary and Clyde, specialties.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Manual of thoroughbred stock and fancy poultry. Specialty—Rough-coated Scotch Collie dogs.

Stark Bros., Louisiana, Mo. Stark Fruit Book, profusely illustrated with half-tones and beautifully colored plates of the choicest apples, peaches, pears, plums and cherries.

Luther Burbank, Santa Rosa, Cal. The 1898 supplement to "New Creations in Fruits and Flowers." The fame of Luther Burbank as a scientific originator of new plants and fruits is world-wide. The whole botanical and horticultural world is indebted to him. Most of the "New Creation" he has selected for propagation and sold to nurserymen for distribution to fruit-growers have become "standards of excellence."

F. S. Burch & Co., Chicago, Ill. Descriptive catalogue of wool-growers' supplies.

S. L. Allen & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. "Planet Jr. Book," describing garden-seed drills, wheel-hoes, hand and horse cultivators, sugar-beet cultivators, etc.

John Z. Faust, Mercersburg, Pa. Illustrated catalogue of thoroughbred poultry.

TEN WEEKS FOR TEN CENTS!

Strange as it may appear, that big family paper, the *Illustrated Weekly Sentinel*, of Denver, Colorado, (founded 1890) will be sent ten weeks on trial for 10c. a club of six 50c.; 12 for \$1. Special offer solely to introduce the paper. Gold rings set with Rocky mountain gems are given free as premiums. Latest mining news and illustrations of grand scenery each week, also true stories of love and adventure. Address as above and mention the FARM AND FIRESIDE. Write to-day, postage stamps taken.

Once a Customer Always a Customer

THE FINEST GARDEN

in the neighborhood this year, will be yours—if you plant

Maule's Seeds

My 1898 Offer for Everybody consisting of one packet each of

6 STERLING VEGETABLES

is the banner offer of the year and appeals to every reader of this publication that is not acquainted with these justly celebrated seeds.

NEW ICEBERG LETTUCE,
NEW ELECTRIC BEET,
BENNETT'S EARLY WHITE SPINE CUCUMBER
NEW RUBY PEARL RADISH,
SOUTHWEST YELLOW GLOBE ONION,
BUCKEYE STATE TOMATO.

I will send postpaid one full regular size packet of each of the above vegetable seeds together with a copy of my new seed and plant book on receipt of

ONLY 15 CENTS

Remittance in silver or postage stamps.

MY NEW CATALOGUE FOR '98 contains everything good, old or new, in Garden, Field and Flower Seeds, Flowering Plants, Bulbs, etc. Hundreds of illustrations. Four colored plates. Full of business cover to cover. Pronounced by all the Brightest and Best Book of the Year. Mailed free to all who mention the publication in which they saw this advertisement. Address

Wm. Henry Maule,
1711 FILBERT ST.,
Philadelphia, Penn'a.

Once a Customer Always a Customer

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, with out nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood. 1,500,000 boxes sold, 400,000 in health, nerve cases cured. Buy and pocket-book.

NO-TO-BAC will cure you. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

NEEDLESS SUFFERING FROM HEADACHE Quickly cured. Package Best Remedy Known post-paid by mail, 10 cents. Address ANTHONY REMEDY CO., Dept. A, Hempstead, N. Y.

YOU CAN make money distributing Circulars and Samples. Salary and expenses to travel. No canvassing. Enclose 2c stamp ADVERTISER'S PAPER, No. 103 W. 31st St., New York.

FOR 30 DAYS MORE YOU CAN TRY IT FOR 25 CENTS.

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, LA GRIPPE

CURED BY "5 DROPS" is the most concentrated and powerful specific known. Free from opiates and perfectly harmless. Relief is usually felt the very first night. We have letters of grateful praise from thousands who have been cured by "5 DROPS," and who recommend it to sufferers.

GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., Chicago. Dear Friends:—Yes, yes, I shall always think of you as my far away friends, and thank God for directing your advertisement to this place. Yes, oh yes! I will gladly tell the whole world what your "5 DROPS" has done for me. It found me racked with pain from head to foot day and night and I had dreadful sounds in my head. I could not eat, sleep or rest. The doctors gave me medicine and it would stop the pain for a short time but it would come again. I could not have suffered much longer. At times I cared not what became of me, and my kidneys were in a very bad shape. Every doctor I went to told me I had so many different diseases in my body that it was difficult to tell where to commence. I could hardly get across the room. Now I can walk one and a half miles and back, and God bless you always. Oh, how gladly I would take the agency if it were possible, but I am poor and have no way of traveling around if I should take it. Gratefully yours, MRS. L. WALLACE, McGregor, Iowa, January 3, 1898.

I CANNOT PRAISE "5 DROPS" ENOUGH.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., Chicago. Dear Sirs:—I thought I would write a statement of my case. I was taken in August with Sciatic Neuralgia, and was treated by two of the best physicians of our county, but they did not help me any. But happy for me I saw your "5 DROPS" advertisement and sent and got a bottle and it has cured me. I was very bad, could hardly get around at all, but now I can go anywhere. I cannot praise "5 DROPS" enough for what it has done for me. I am very, very grateful for what you have done for me. Yours truly, SARAH E. WILSON, Spradling, Kentucky, January 2, 1898.

As a positive cure for Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Dyspepsia, Backache, Asthma, Hay Fever, Catarrh, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Nervous and Neuralgic Headaches, Heart Weakness, Toothache, Earache, Croup, Swelling, La Grippe, Malaria, Creeping Numbness, etc., etc.,

"FIVE DROPS" HAS NEVER BEEN EQUALLED.

"5 DROPS" taken but once a day is a dose of this great remedy, and to enable all sufferers to make a trial of its wonderful curative properties, we will send out for thirty days more, 100,000 sample bottles, 25c. each, prepaid by mail. Even a sample bottle will convince you of its merit. Best and cheapest medicine on earth. Large bottles (300 doses), \$1.00; for 30 days, 3 bottles for \$2.50. Not sold by druggists, only by us and our agents. Agents wanted in new territory. Write us to-day.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 167-169 Dearborn St., CHICAGO, ILL.

\$23.95

SEND US TWO DOLLARS

FOR THIS TOP BUGGY If you live east of the Rocky Mountains and we will send you this high grade Top Buggy by freight C. O. D. subject to examination; you can examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you have ever heard of, pay the freight agent the balance \$31.95 and freight charges.

\$33.95 IS OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE FOR THIS HIGH GRADE, GUARANTEED 1898 STYLE. We sell Top Buggies at \$23.95 and up; Road Wagons \$17.95 and up; Two Seated Surreys at \$42.00 and up. All of which are fully described and illustrated in our Free Buggy and Harness Catalogue which we mail to any address free on application.

OUR GREATEST BARGAIN IS THIS NEW HIGH GRADE 1898 STYLE TOP BUGGY FOR \$33.95. It is covered by a written binding one year guarantee, will last a lifetime. Made by one of the best makers in America. WHEELS are strictly high grade, Sarven's patent or steel band, bolted between each spoke, fitted with best steel tire. GEAR from very best selected second growth hickory, ironed throughout with Norway iron. SPRINGS: End springs like cut or Brewster side bar as desired, the highest grade made. BODY: 23 inches wide, 54 inches long, piano style like cut, made from very best material, ironed throughout. DASH: highest grade patent leather; cushion and back, Evan's leather, nicely tufted and finished. Heavy green holly cloth trimming \$2.00 extra. TOP: Highest grade, 22 oz. rubber roof, quarters, sides and back curtain, 3 or 4 bow. Leather quarter top, \$3.00 extra. PAINTING: We use nothing but the very finest paints, oils and varnishes and only the most skilled mechanics do the work. Body is painted black; Gear, dark green or red with suitable gold striping. Width of track 4 feet 6 inches or 5 feet 2 inches.

AT OUR SPECIAL \$33.95 PRICE we furnish this high grade, guaranteed, latest 1898 Top Buggy complete with top, full cushions, foot, storm apron, carpet, side and back curtains, wrench, anti-rattlers and shafts. For pole in place of shaft, \$2.00 extra. Send \$2.00 and we will send you the buggy, you pay the balance \$31.95 and freight after buggy is received. Only 300 buggies to go at \$33.95. DON'T DELAY; such an offer will not be made again. FOR EVERYTHING in Buggies, Carriages, Wagons, Harness and Saddles write for our FREE BUGGY CATALOGUE. Don't delay, write to-day. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Cheapest Supply House on Earth. Fulton, Desplaines and Wayman Streets, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

\$4 GIRLS' WATCH

FREE FOR A CLUB

Girls' SOLID SILVER Watch

This is a dainty little chatelaine watch for girls. The illustration is exact size. The case is pure and solid coin-silver, hand-engraved. The movement has jewels on the principal bearings; is stem-wind and stem-set. It is a perfect timekeeper. Guaranteed to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.

We will send Farm and Fireside one year and this Solid Silver Chatelaine Watch for . . \$4

This solid silver chatelaine watch given free as a premium for a club of 20 yearly subscribers to Farm and Fireside; or for a club of 15 and \$1 cash; or for a club of 10 and \$2 cash; or for a club of 5 and \$3 cash.

Prem. No. 89. Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, O.

Buggies, Phaetons, Surreys, Traps, Harness

Buy direct from factory at Wholesale Prices. 30 per cent saved. Guaranteed for two years. Write to-day for new beautifully illustrated Catalogue, send 3 cents in stamps. Highest awards given us at World's Fair, Atlanta Exposition, Nashville Centennial Exposition.

Alliance Carriage Co. 227 E. Court St. Cincinnati, O.

Price \$44. Price \$60.

RHEUMATISM

Permanently cured by using DR. WHITEHALL'S RHEUMATIC CURE. The surest and the best. Sample sent free on mention of this publication. THE DR. WHITEHALL MCGRIMME CO., South Bend Indiana.

BERRY PLANTS A SPECIALTY. 16th Annual Catalogue free. 100 Strawberry Plants of four best new kinds by mail for \$1.00. Lucretia Dewberries \$4 per 1000. Light Brahms, Plymouth Rock and other high bred poultry, 13 eggs for 50c. The best in everything. SLAYMAKER & SON, Dover, Del.

TO HONEST PEOPLE!

I've got the best thing on earth for the people and for honest agents who want to make money doing a public good, and in such a way that they will continue making it as long as they live, with the same people. V. O. is an absolute and positive necessity that the people must have, no matter how low the price of wheat or silver. I have agents who are making \$500 a month, and hundreds are making \$50 to \$200 without going out of their homes. I conduct my business as no agency man does, and protect my agents in a permanent business requiring no canvassing or no cunning lying or deception of any sort.

I am no quack doctor with a drug composed of poison; on long haired Indian Joe Baw, with a pocket doctor; no retired foreign university with a page doctor; no graduate of some Egyptian or Indian secret college, nor a bushy haired Gue Hee, but a plain every-day American, who, by scientific discovery, has found our real Vite, that dreads criticism and challenges investigation.

I have no time to read the letters of idle curiosity chaps, or Paul Pry's, so give the names of five references and inclose 10 cents for me to find out who and what you are before giving you my terms to agents. Circulars sent free to all applicants. I want an agent in every locality; elderly men or women are best.

THEO. NOEL, Geologist, Chicago, Ill.

Farm and Fireside GIANT ALMANAC AND Annual Reference Book

1898

An Absolutely Reliable Authority

On Political, Agricultural, Commercial, Educational, Financial, Mining, Religious, Historical, Official, Astronomical, and Miscellaneous Subjects and Statistics in General.

UP TO DATE 450 PAGES

Miniature cut of the Almanac. Actual size of each page, 5 1/2 x 7 1/2 inches.

COLUMBIAS Second Hand Bicycle \$10

Wanted: Others new \$15-\$25. Catalog Free. CLYDE P. WARNER MFG. CO., Salesmen, 1529 Wabash Ave., B. 41, Chicago

WRITERS WANTED to do copywriting at home. Law College, Lima, O.

\$7 DAILY Selling Specialty Soap. Sample outfit free. Mother Soap Co., 2, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Smiles.

AN EXPERIMENT IN THEOLOGY.

A LITTLE boy about five years old, too tired for anything but sleep, refused one night to say his prayers. His uncle, who was present, said: "Oh, Harry, would you go to sleep without asking God to take care of you during the night?" The little fellow answered: "I didn't say 'em last night; I ain't goin' to say 'em to-night, and I ain't goin' to say 'em to-morrow night; and then, if nothin' don't get me, I ain't goin' to say 'em no more."—Argonaut.

REGRET.

"Did your railway make money?" "No," replied the promoter; "we wouldn't let well enough alone." "There was a chance of its being profitable, then?" "Yes, but we weren't satisfied with selling stock. We had to go ahead and try to build the road."—Washington Star.

THE OBSTACLE.

Wife—"If Will goes to college you will have to support him for four years before he finishes, dear." Husband—"I don't mind that so much." Wife—"Then why do you hesitate?" Husband—"I was thinking of the four years after he gets through."—Life.

MISUNDERSTOOD.

"What do you consider the greatest achievements of the century?" inquired the philosopher. And, after some thought, the man who wears bicycle medals, replied: "The last ten or twelve miles."—Washington Star.

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE.

Mamma—"Dorothy, do you know who ate my raisins?" Dorothy (turning over the leaves of her book more rapidly)—"Mamma, you told me yesterday some things are better left unsaid. Isn't that one of them, don't you s'pose?"—Judge.

DECLARING HIMSELF.

"Do you like the hat?" as she turned it slowly on the pink tips of her fingers. "More than I can tell; but I love its darling little owner." "How sweet! It belongs to sister. I'll call her."—Detroit Free Press.

SURE ENOUGH!

Small Southern boy (politely)—"Please pass the 'lasses." Prim Northern aunt—"You mean molasses, do you not?" Small Southern boy—"How can I mean molasses when I haven't had any?"—Truth.

NOT THE WORD FOR IT.

"Henry, isn't this pumpkin pie I made for you a poem?" "Poem? Josephine, I tell you solemnly, the editor who would throw that in the waste-basket ought to be hanged."—Detroit Free Press.

COMPROMISE.

Father—Baby say dad! (Encouragingly) D—d—d— Mother—Baby say mam! (Encouragingly) Mam—mam— Baby—D—d—dam!

STRANGE.

The parson—"An' to tink ob de New Jerusalem wif de streets paved wif gold!" The deacon—"An' yit dere ain't de same rush dere as dey is to de Klondike."—Puck.

HE EXPLAINS.

Mrs. Brown—"It's a shame the way the early settlers killed off the Indians!" Mr. Brown—"They couldn't get close enough, my dear, to chloroform them."—Puck.

The Page Woven Wire Fence Company, of Adrian, Michigan, have issued a new illustrated catalogue, which will be sent free to any person asking for it. This Company is a leader, and its goods are widely known throughout America. The catalogue in question is interesting and of interest to prospective buyers.

FATAL.

"What did the blacksmith die of, Johnny?" "Shoeing a mule."—Pick-me-up.

DRUNKENNESS IS A DISEASE.

Will send free book of Particulars how to cure "Drunkennes or the Liquor Habit" with or without the knowledge of the patient. Address Dr. J. W. Haines, No. 439 Race Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Enameline

The Modern STOVE POLISH. Produces a JET BLACK enamel gloss. Dustless, Odorless, Labor Saving. 5 and 10 cent boxes. Try it on your Cycle Chain. J. L. PRESCOTT & CO., NEW YORK.

FREE FOR BOYS & GIRLS. Send your address on a postal card and we mail at our risk 14 pieces of the most magnificent Gold Plated Jewelry that you ever saw. You to sell them among Lady or Gentlemen friends at 25c. and 35c. each. When sold you send our money and we send an open face stem winding gold plated fine time Keeping Watch, also a gold plated Chain and Charm free to your address, or you may keep half the money instead of watch. In writing, you agree to send our money or return jewelry. Write your whole name. Address N. Y. T. COMBINATION 529 E. 116th St., New York.

FAT HOW TO REDUCE IT. Miss M. Nobles Raine, Wis. writes: "Your remedy reduced my weight 54 lbs. and I think it is the simplest and grandest remedy in the world to reduce superfluous fat." It is purely vegetable and can be prepared at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. Sample box and full particulars in plain envelope sent free to anyone. It costs you nothing to try it. HALL CHEM. CO., B BOX, St. Louis, Mo.

STOP CHEWING! It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood. makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket book. your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure or your money and money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

Hypnotism. Learn to Hypnotize. You can control others and compel them to think, act and feel as you desire. Gratifies every wish. You can make others love and obey you. Produces fun by the hour. Cures diseases and bad habits. New and instantaneous method. Quickest and best on earth. I guarantee success. Mammoth illustrated LESSON and full particulars sent postpaid for 10 cts. Write to-day. Prof. L. A. Harraden, Hypnotist, Station H, JACKSON, MICH.

500 PARCELS of MAIL. Send us 10 CENTS and we will mail you four NAME and ADDRESS in our MAMMOTH HANDS of Publishers, Novelty Dealers etc., who will send you FREE Samples of Books, Cards, Soups, Jewelry, United Articles and no end of Papers and magazines, many worth 10c. to 25c. each, also "The Business Echo" "The Whole Year" (regular price, 50c.). This is one of the best agents' papers out and will keep you posted. We will also send a big book of 500 pictures, new 25-page Song Book, 100 pictures of Actors, Glee Value Guide, 60c. Articles for agents to sell (worth 25c. each, 13 rare money making Series, one free-millie 100 BULL C. S. A. Money and a Big Bundle of our 200 SAMPLES etc. ALL PREPAID FOR 10 CTS. Name of this paper and get a 50 cent double bill, good for 50c. worth of goods which you can select from our big Catalogue. Show this most astonishing offer to your friends. Write today. Address, STAR CO., 1603 OHIO ST., CHICAGO.

WANTED NOW. Agents at ONCE to sell Sash Locks and Door Holders. Sample Sash Lock free for 2-cent stamp. Immense; better than weights; burglar proof. \$10.00 a day. Write quick. Address BROHARD & CO., Dept. 59, Philadelphia, Pa.

ELECTRIC BELLS ALARM CLOCKS and Electrical Appliances for Farm and Village homes. Any boy can install them. Circulars Free. CRESCENT ELECTRICAL CO., Connellsville, Pa.

Agents. Big Success. GUARANTEED. Everything new. Supplies Free. Season is here, so act quick. FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, O.

698 New styles of Hidden Name, Silk fringe, Envelope Cards, Lovers' Telegrams, Dutton Buster & Fun Cards, Star Head Catcher, with Agents New Sample Book only 2 cts. BUCKEYE CARD CO., LACEVILLE, OHIO.

NEW Big winner for Winter season canvassing. Nothing Like It. Bookmen, lady agents, etc., get extra chance. Mast, Crowell & Kirkpatrick, Springfield, Ohio.

CARDS Send 2c. stamp for Sample Book of all the FINEST & LATEST Styles in Beveled Edge, Hidden Name, Silk Fringe, Envelope and Calling Cards for 1898. WE SELL GENUINE CARDS, NOT TRASH. UNION CARD CO., Columbus, Ohio.

696 New Sample styles of Envelope Silk Fringe CARDS, 2c., 20 New Songs, 100 Rich and Racy Jokes, 1 pack Escort Cards, 1 pack Fun Cards, 1 pack Acquaintance Cards and Standard Beau Catcher. ALL FOR TWO CENTS. CROWN CARD CO., CADIZ, OHIO.

THE YANKEE FIRE-KINDLER Builds 100 Fires with 3c. of oil. No kindlings. Warranted 3 years. Greatest Seller for Agents ever invented. Sample with terms prepaid, 15c. YANKEE KINDLER CO., OLNEY, ILL. 37, Sta. E.

700 Sample Styles of Silk Fringe Cards, Love Cards, Scrap Pictures, Games, Puzzles, Album Verses, The Star Puzzle, The 13 Puzzle, and Agents Sample Album of our latest Cards. Send a two cent stamp for postage. Banner Card Co., CADIZ, OHIO.

SALESMEN WANTED to sell to dealers. \$100 monthly and expenses. Experience unnecessary. Enclose stamp. Acme Cigar Co. Chicago

SPECTACLES at wholesale. Send for catalogue. Agents wanted. COULTER OPTICAL CO. Chicago, Ill.

6TH and 7th books of Moses, Black Arts, Albertus Magnus, Row Wows, Gypsy, Wizard's Oracle, Witch, also Dream and Fortune Telling Books, Royal Road to Riches, circa. free. S. ATO, 41 Station H, Chicago, Ill.

CARDS FOR 1898. 50 Sample Styles and LIST of 700 PREMIUM ARTICLES FREE. HAYESFIELD PUB CO., CADIZ, OHIO

987 Tricks, Games, Puzzles, Laughing Camera, PREMIUM ARTICLES ETC., AND AGENTS CARD ALBUM AND OUTFIT, ALL 2 CENT STAMP. OHIO CARD CO., CADIZ, OHIO.

LARGE CIGAR Firm wants permanent Agents everywhere \$15 per WEEK TO BEGINNERS. EXPENSES ADVANCED. SAMPLES FREE. ADDRESS with stamp, P BOX 1210, CHICAGO.

RUBBER STAMPS. Best made. Immense Catalogue Free to agents. The G. A. HARPER Mfg. Co., Cleveland, O.

AGENTS WANTED—Free samples. Hose, Tires, Belting, Mackintoshes and Rubber. M. P. O. 1371, New York.

\$61000 for distributing CIRCULARS. Enclose 4c. Excelsior Adv. Co., 213 W. 125 St., N. Y. City.

ON 30 DAYS' TRIAL. THIS NEW ELASTIC TRUSS. Has a Pad different from all others, is cup shape, with self-adjusting Ballincent, adapts itself to all positions of the body, while the ball in the cup presses back the intestines, just as a person does with the finger. With light pressure the Hernia is held securely day and night, and a radical cure certain. It is easy, durable and cheap. Sent by mail. Circulars free. LEE, Illinois, October, 1, 1895. The old man I fitted 2 years ago wore your truss about 90 days and said he was cured. Saw him last week and although he was 63 years old and a hard worker, he is as sound as when a boy. Yours truly, M. C. MCKEN, M. D. STAXARDVILLE, Va., Sept. 5, 1895. I have had splendid result from your truss in quite a number of cases of grown people. E. W. SIMS, M. D. DERBICK CITY, Pa., June 3, 1895. I received my truss the 27th and since I have had it I have taken more comfort with it than any I ever have had. The last day I got it I put it on and moved grass all day and I never noticed that I had it on me. ALEX. BROWN. TUNIS, N. C., July 21, 1895. About 3 years ago I bought one of your trusses. I wore it about 6 months and it has made a final cure. Was badly ruptured. I would have written to you about this before but wanted to see if my cure was permanent. O. G. HALLAMAN. \$1,000 forfeited to you if every testimonial used by us is not genuine. Address C. H. EGLESTON & CO., 1208 MASONIC TEMPLE, CHICAGO.

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"I can say for myself that I never have been mean enough to get another woman's cook away from her." "Neither have I; but I must confess that once or twice I have tried to work our cook off on some of my neighbors."—Boston Traveler.

"Before a man is married," said the minstrel orator, "before a man is married he is only half a man." "There!" said the married women to their escorts, "how do you like that?" "And after he is married," continued the orator, "he is nobody at all."—Indianapolis Journal.

Ted was invited out to tea with his mother one day, and among other delicacies a saucer of orange gelatine was set before him. It was a new dish to the little fellow, and he eyed it disparagingly a minute, then said, very politely, "If you please, 'um, thank you, I rather guess you can have it back—it keeps waggin' so."—Pittsburg Bulletin.

"Eliphalet," said the white visitor who had dropped in by appointment, and had been watching the proceedings with some disappointment, "this is not at all like what I expected a cake-walk would be."

"No, suh," answered Eliphalet. "Somebody done stole de cake, an' de manager hez put up a cake o' soap. Dey's all walkin' so as not to git it, suh."

"Tell me," pleaded the artless maid, "wherein lies the secret of the art of conversation?"

The sage assumed the attitude he was wont to assume when in the act of imparting wisdom, and said: "My child, listen!" "I am listening," breathlessly she answered. "Well, my child," he rejoined, "that is all there is of the art of conversing agreeably."—Chicago Tribune.

Herr Scheel tells of a conscientious cornet-player in one of his orchestras who gave an unexpected rendering of a well-known passage. "Let's have that over again," requested Scheel, surprised at hearing a note which was not in the score.

The note was sounded again and again. "What are you playing?" he asked at last. "I am playing what am on ze paper," said the cornet-player. "I blay vat is before me." "Let me have a look." The part was handed to the conductor. "Why, you idiot," he roared, "can't you see that this is a dead fly?" "I don't care," was the answer, "he was there, and I blayed him."—Wave.

A woman of this town lost both of her servants the other day. A friend of hers recommended a maid, and a message was sent to the maid to call. She did so and was engaged on the spot. When asked when she could begin her duties, she pointed to a big bag in the hall, and said: "I brought it along, as I thought you might want me at once."

At the end of a week the mistress, who found her satisfactory, said one day: "Mary, do your people know where you are?"

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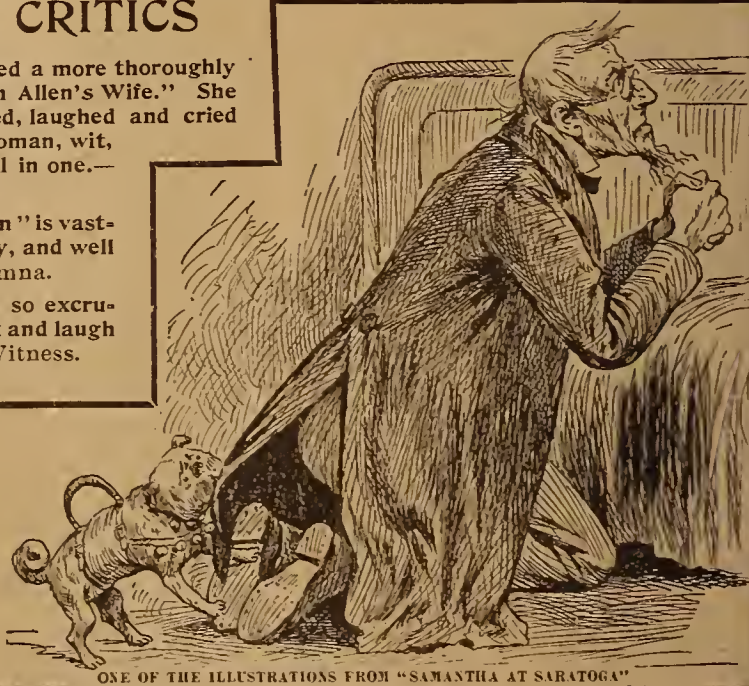
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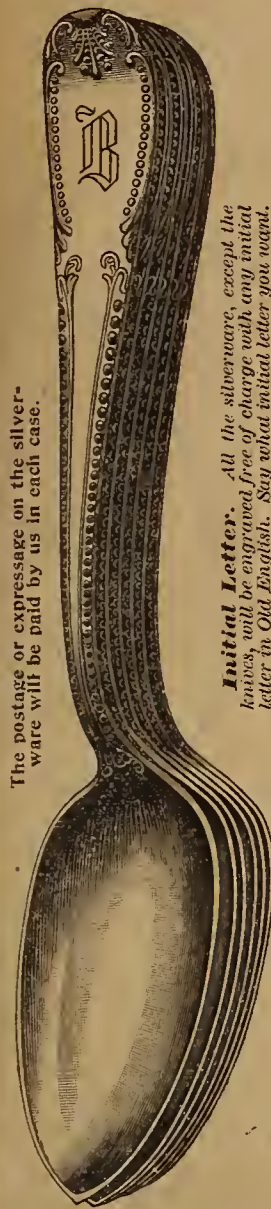
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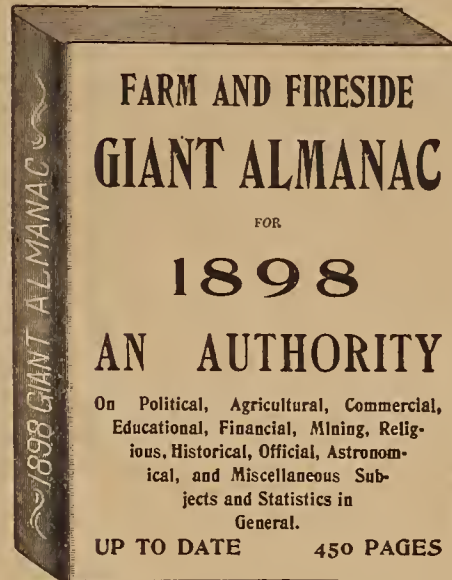
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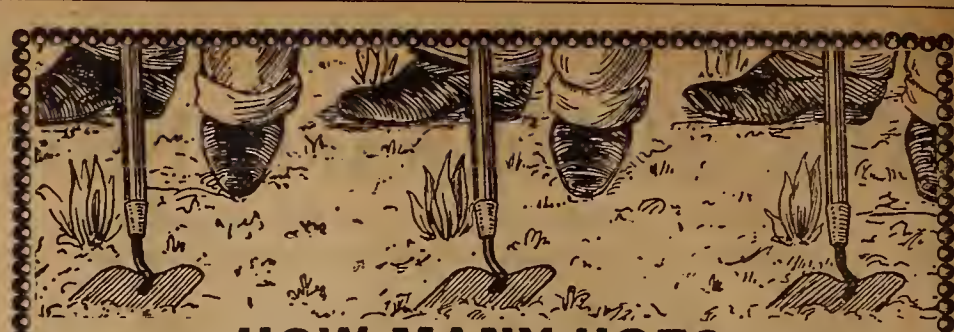
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Waverly, Va., 1898.

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Samples free. THE FAY MANILLA ROOFING CO., Camden, N. J.



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VOL. XXI. NO. 12.

MARCH 15, 1898.

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Mr. Charles N. Kent, for years editor of the "American Newspaper Directory," says that Farm and Fireside leads all semi-monthly agricultural journals in circulation, and prints over 50 per cent more than SEVENTY-NINE others of the same class combined.

Don't experiment. First talk to the 335,550 Farm and Fireside readers. Then pay more pro rata for the others if you like.

WITH THE VANGUARD

IN his Farewell Address Washington said: "Observe good faith and justice toward all nations, cultivate peace and harmony with all; religion and morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence."

For a century this nation has faithfully observed these principles of a foreign policy laid down by Washington. Let no one doubt that it will continue to do so. The course of international affairs has again made it the duty and necessity of our government to deal with a foreign nation. "The hammer of events has struck the hour of action." For the honor of the United States, the protection of its citizens, or for the cause of human liberty in Cuba, the sword of justice may soon be drawn against Spain. If so, it will be used to give exact justice; nothing more nor less will preserve untarnished the American name.

IN his annual message to Congress in December, 1793, Washington said: "The United States ought not to indulge a persuasion that, contrary to the order of human events, they will forever keep at a distance those painful appeals to arms with which the history of every nation abounds. There is a rank due to the United States among nations which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times prepared for war."

This wise advice has not been followed as it should have been. Conscious of its vast power this nation feels too secure in that alone. It has been careless about

being fully prepared for immediate action whenever occasion demands. Would the heroic struggle for liberty by the Cuban patriots have been prolonged for three years, if the United States had been fully prepared to intervene with force in their behalf and take care of the possible consequences of such intervention? For months past the government has been actively at work getting prepared for war. It has been doing all that could be done within the provisions made by Congress. The result is that the United States is, to-day, in better condition for both defensive and aggressive action than it has ever been before. Whatever Congress does now to put and to keep the country in the condition advised by the statesmanship of Washington more than a century ago, will be commended by the American people.

SPEAKING of the investigation into the cause of the disaster to the Maine—in progress at this writing—by the naval court of inquiry, the New York "Sun" says: "The history of such courts in the navy proves their thoroughness and impartiality, and the present board is of the highest character morally and of special ability. If the question of the cause of the loss of the Maine is now determinable it may be taken for granted that it will be discovered by these patient and expert officers and will be explained exactly as it is in the report they will make in due time.

"The supreme gravity of the possible consequences involved renders it imperative that the investigation should proceed deliberately to its conclusions, and that it will so proceed, whatever the public impatience, may be accepted as certain. Nor is there any interest of this country which dictates haste. Such delay as is prudent or necessary rather affords us time which can be utilized for requisite preparations if the result of the inquiry shall force us to take summary and severe measures. Not a day nor an hour has been wasted by our government since the loss of the Maine, and such further delay as may occur in reaching a conclusion will bring gain rather than loss to us.

"The honor and dignity of the nation are safe in the hands of this court of inquiry, and they will be promptly asserted and vindicated by the administration if in any way they have been assailed and outraged in the harbor of Havana."

Whatever may be the official finding as to its cause, the Maine disaster opens the final chapter in the history of the Cuban revolution. The cause of the patriots is stronger than ever, the power of their oppressors is weaker, and the sentiment of the American people demands immediate intervention by our government. At the Maine's dark hour, the day of "Cuba libre" dawned.

ON Washington's anniversary ex-President Harrison made a notable address on "Obligations of Wealth," pointing out that respect for government and law in the United States would cease unless there came a speedy remedy of the tax evil. Urging reform of tax laws and reform of tax-payers he said, in part:

"The special purpose of my address is to press home this thought upon the prosperous, well-to-do people of our community, and especially of our great cities, that one of the conditions of security of wealth is a proportionate and full contribution to the expenses of the state and local governments. It is not only wrong, but it is unsafe, to make a show in our homes and on the street that is not made in the tax returns. . . .

"Taxes are a debt of the highest obligation, and no casuist can draw a sound moral distinction between the man who hides his property or makes a false return in order to escape the payment of his debt to the state and the man who conceals his property from his private creditors. Nor should it be more difficult to follow the defaulter in the one case than in the other. If our taxes were farmed out to an individual or to a corporation they would be collected as fully as private debts are now collected. There would be a vigilant and unrelenting pursuit. The civil and criminal processes of the law would be invoked with effect, just as they were against fraudulent debtors under the bankrupt law.

"It is not within the purpose of this address to propose in detail the needed reforms in our tax laws, but rather to emphasize the need and to suggest that our men of wealth and the managers of our great corporations should themselves come forward and take the lead in these reforms; that they should not only show a willingness, but a zeal, to bear their full proportionate share of all public burdens. If they do not, the sense of injury is so strong that ways will be found to exact more than is equal. To do justice is the best safeguard against injustice."

ON the morning of February 16th, Dr. Manly Miles, America's first professor of agriculture, entered his final rest in the seventy-second year of his age. The following sketch was furnished by a contributor:

"In 1861 Dr. Miles was appointed Professor of Physiology and Zoology in the Michigan Agricultural College, then four years old. He filled this chair with credit to the institution and to himself, until 1865, when he was elected Professor of Practical Agriculture, the first man in America to receive this title.

"Popular and efficient in his former position, his zeal and thoroughness created an enthusiasm for farm-work among his students that made him even more popular. At that time much of the seven hundred acres of land which comprises the college farm needed drainage. The intricate problems presented by quicksands, soil pockets, swamps, irregular fall, due to the peculiar formation of the land, were attacked with a vigor that found ready response in his almost doting students. Instead of detracting from his popularity his fearlessness of even the roughest work raised him in the estimation of his co-workers and pupils. His favorite uniform for field-work was a pair of brown overalls. It is related that upon one occasion the late Judge Tenney, of Michigan, inquired for Dr. Miles of a gang of boys busy at a troublesome ditch and was told that the man in overalls down in the quicksands below was the professor.

"In 1875 Dr. Miles left the college to take up work in the broader fields of research, and has in his later years enriched the literature of agriculture by his writings upon silage, stock-breeding and drainage. He also devoted much of his time to original investigation in physics and in agriculture, upon which topics he wrote for the press. His great aim was to find truth; to the search for which he brought a keen, penetrating mind and untiring perseverance."

THE burden of taxation is a common complaint. Nearly every one knows something about it. But few know anything about the bad-road tax. Some striking figures on this subject that may help arouse action to secure relief are given in a recent bulletin of the Missouri experiment station. The figures are not exaggerated. Read them, reflect, and act.

"It is estimated that the public roads of the United States aggregate 1,500,000 miles in length. Conservative estimates place the total wagon transportation in the United States at approximately 500,000,000 tons. The average distance of haul is placed at eight miles, and the average cost of transporting one ton this distance is assumed to be \$2, making the total yearly cost for wagon freighting \$1,000,000,000. It is claimed that this freight could be transported the distance of eight miles over first-class roads at an average cost of eighty cents a ton. On this basis, a saving of \$600,000,000 a year in the cost of wagon transportation could be effected with first-class roads in all sections of the country. The magnitude of this saving will be better appreciated when it is realized that it amounts to about one fourth of the value, on the farm, of all the farm products of the United States.

"In round numbers the sum of \$20,000,000 is paid out each year for the maintenance of our public roads outside of the cities. This estimate does not include the cost of permanent improvements. Thus at the end of the year, after an expenditure of \$20,000,000, the roads of the country are no better than they were at the beginning of the year."

FARM AND FIRESIDE

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We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

How to Increase Demand. It seems very evident that there is no actual overproduction of fruits and vegetables. Even in our districts with glutted markets there are any number of families who live on potatoes and bread and cheap meats, but know good vegetables by sight only. At least cabbage, and possibly wild greens, are the only ones that ever come upon their tables. The members of many of these families do not know what it means to have a good big mess, their "fill," of such luxurious dishes as strawberries, raspberries and the like. In short, thousands of people have to do without the very things that are so often claimed to be in oversupply. This is a condition, not a theory; but when we try to find a way how to get these people in condition to buy and use fruits and vegetables to the extent that they would probably like to use them, then I am afraid we may have to do a good deal of theorizing. I confess I know of no patent remedy for poverty except intelligent work, and many are not naturally overstocked with intelligence, while sometimes intelligent people find themselves without work. It may be a hopeless task to work for increased consumption of the products of our gardens and fruit-patches in this direction.

There is, however, a much more promising field; namely, to "work" those who are abundantly able to buy good fruits and vegetables. Only those who have learned to grow choice things in their own gardens are free consumers. The rest very seldom use fruits and vegetables freely, but could easily be made to do so. How? By tempting their appetites. There is very little that can be said to be really tempting on the stands of the average grocer. Most of the stuff looks mussy, and is often coated with dust. I never feel the least desire to buy strawberries in the city store. They don't look fresh enough. The salvation of the producer is through direct dealing with the consumer. Some very significant instances were related at the last meeting of the Michigan State Horticultural Society. Mr. Kellogg told of a family "which sat and just stuffed strawberries all the time,"

simply because these people were tempted by the freshness and appetizing appearance of the fruit. Then Professor Tracy said:

"I am so situated that I have an opportunity to produce vegetables fresh from the garden. I have asked parties if they liked tomatoes, for instance. They said they did not care for any. Well, I sent some down, and in a week or ten days or two weeks those people seemed to be doing just what Mr. Kellogg's friends did—it just seemed to me they did nothing but stuff down tomatoes; what in the world they did with them all I could not see. The same has been true with celery, beets and many other vegetables, and I think there is one thing in which we can accomplish a good deal in any community, and that is by a change in our methods of marketing. I think there is no marketing arrangement which is more unfortunate than the ordinary way of disposing of our vegetables, the ordinary way in which people in the villages and towns get their vegetable and fresh-fruit supply. The farmer grows some and brings it to the grocer, and the grocer sells it when he can. The people at the homes know not when he has it, and if they go down town and they happen to see it (it may be two or three days old) they get it. There seems to be a great future and a great possibility of increased production of all sorts of garden products, not alone of these small fruits and vegetables, if our farmers would drift back into the old way of supplying their customers direct—bringing the products in themselves and leaving them at the place of residence, and taking orders directly from the people in the village, delivering the goods in the same way. I have never known an instance where this has been carried out, but consumption has been increased enormously."

All this is only too true and points out a way for us how to increase the demand for our products. But in the first place we must learn how to produce the best. We cannot hope to tempt a customer with the stuff no better than found on the average grocer's stand. If you go to a big city, into a fancy grocery where fruits and vegetables of really good quality are tastily and temptingly displayed, and ask there about prices, you will find them "fancy," like the products themselves, and prohibitive for the ordinary buyer of ordinary means. You would be glad to sell your products for half what the fancy grocer asks for a similar class of goods. Take such goods directly to the ordinary consumer (neither the poor nor the very rich), and tempt him with their fresh and appetizing appearance and a fair (not fancy) price, and if you keep at it tempting him thus, there will be no difficulty to make a good and profitable customer of him. Don't forget that you must "lead him into temptation."

High Living. Our lady readers unquestionably are acquainted, at least by reputation, with Mrs. Rorer, the popular writer on cookery and author of cook-books, etc. I was much pleased to see from a report on Pennsylvania institute work (given in the "National Stockman," by Alva Agee) that Mrs. Rorer takes pretty much the same ground that I did in some of the earlier issues of the FARM AND FIRESIDE in regard to our mode of living, especially in regard to the free use of rich pies and cakes, etc. Mr. Agee reports: "Mrs. Rorer is very much in earnest in her belief that most moral and physical ills are directly traceable to a diseased condition of the stomach, due to the use of improper food. She told us that we should return to a simple diet, and that the housewife who makes rich cakes and other indigestible, though appetizing compounds, is really doing the same kind of work as the bar-keeper. She said that she had never seen a properly fed man behind the bars. Ice-cream and confectionery she classes with cigars and rum, all causing unnatural cravings of the appetite and leading to pauperism. A simple and balanced ration, small in quantity, means health. She wants 'light eating and high thinking.'" With a touch of humor, although not likely as a doubting Thomas, Mr. Agee adds: "I rather like the idea of having all the responsibility of making the world better, rolled off men's shoulders and placed upon the cooks. It simplifies

matters so much." Now, I wonder if our lady readers will "go for" Mrs. Rorer as they did "go for" me when I undertook to preach the gospel of simpler living and the balanced ration for the human race? I hope that in certain respects Mrs. Rorer tries to make her story stronger by a trifle of exaggeration (I am quite fond of ice-cream myself). But if all that she stated is really true, she must bear her share of the blame and responsibility for people's extravagance. She, like other teachers in the art of cooking, has furnished the recipes for all sorts of rich and indigestible compounds. Indeed, it is the one great fault I have to find with the cook-books, that the majority of the recipes given in them are so complicated, often extravagant, and conducive to "high living." I hope to convince our readers that it is just as sinful and unwise to be intemperate in eating as to be intemperate in drinking or in anything else.

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Best Variety of
Corn to Plant.H. H. S., Indiana,
writes: "What do you
think of the new vari-

eties of corn advertised and catalogued by seedsmen? Which variety do you think is the best for a 'green' farmer to plant?"

Some years ago we had a very wet spring, and about three fourths of all the corn planted was planted the last days of May and the early part of June. The fifth day of June I called at the home of a hard-working young farmer and found him just beginning to plant a thirty-acre field he had finished plowing an hour before. He had managed to get twenty acres in "between showers," and when it finally cleared up he had made a dash at this thirty acres, rolled it over as rapidly as possible, and was now beginning to plant it, intending to harrow as soon as the seed was in. He had planted six rows when I arrived. Glancing into the seed-boxes I saw that the grains were large and white. "What kind of corn are you planting?" I asked.

"Big White Dent," he replied.

"It's a tall-growing, rather late, big-eared kind, isn't it?"

"Yes," he said; "that's it. Last year it made nearly seventy bushels an acre."

"Don't you think it is rather late to be planting this variety? It will be all right, of course, if we have no frost until November, but that does not happen once in a dozen years. Haven't you any of that smaller, early corn?"

"Yes, I have; and by jingo, I never thought of it! Fact is, I've been working so hard that I haven't thought of anything much but getting this corn in. I've got about fifteen bushels of that little early corn in the end of the crib, and if you will stay here with my team a little while I'll go up and get a bushel of it."

I emptied the seed-boxes and changed the slides to the next smaller holes, and in about half an hour he returned. The thirty acres were planted and well cultivated, and it made forty bushels of good, sound corn to the acre. An early frost caught all late varieties and ruined them.

The following year we had a very favorable spring for farm-work, and corn was planted early. My friend had so fallen in love with the early corn that he planted twenty-five acres to it, and twenty-five to the large, late variety. The season was a long one, and the late corn made nearly eighty bushels to the acre, while the little early made only forty-one bushels.

In speaking of the matter, my friend said: "Your timely advice made me nearly six hundred dollars that late season, and I thought if it was so good for one season it was just as good for another, and that's why I planted twenty-five acres to that early corn the following year. But it didn't pan out. If I'd planted the late variety instead of that little stuff I would have husked nearly a thousand bushels more corn!"

So it will be seen that one must be guided, to some extent at least, by the season in selecting the variety of corn he should plant. The large-eared, late varieties are much the heaviest yielders, and if they can be planted early are the most profitable to grow. If continued wet weather delays planting until late, then the early, smaller varieties are the safest.

One of the most successful corn-growers I ever knew made it a practice to grow an acre of a good early variety every year, so

that he would have a supply of seed on hand whenever needed.

Another very successful farmer planted with an early variety any tract of land he desired to seed to winter wheat. The corn ripened early enough to be cleared off the ground before wheat-sowing time came, and he considered it quite as good wheat-land as that on which oats had been grown, while it was much more easily prepared for seeding.

If for any reason a farmer finds he is going to be short of corn for feed in the early fall it is a good idea to plant a few acres of an early variety to fill in between old corn and the main crop. It will be ripe enough to make good feed when the clover crop is getting short and it is time to begin pushing the pigs along. This new corn makes better feed for pigs and young stock of all kinds than old corn, as it is more easily digested. Some of our best feeders begin feeding it by mixing with an equal quantity of old corn, and this is the best way to begin its use.

One should take with a few grains of salt the extravagant statements of seedsmen respecting new varieties of seed-corn. It is not a difficult matter to obtain a yield of one hundred to one hundred and seventy-five bushels an acre on small tracts of deep, rich soil in very favorable locations, but it does not follow that any farmer can obtain such yields, or near any such yields, with even good culture. A change of seed is desirable if one is getting something better than he already has. All of the new varieties are merely old sorts bred up by careful selection and good culture. If one's seed-corn is not good—is not what he wants—it will pay him well to give a good price and get something that is good, and then by careful selection in his own fields secure a corn that is as good as the best, and will, under the same conditions, yield as much an acre.

The object of most "originators" of new varieties has been to secure large, deep grains and very small cob. Some farmers would not plant such corn if it were given to them. They want cobs like stove-wood, because they believe that it takes a big cob to hold lots of corn. Then, they claim that big cobs weigh, and as they sell their corn in the ear they get more an acre than the man who grows the small-cob variety.

If a man is growing corn for feed it certainly will not pay him to grow cob, and therefore he should carefully avoid the big-cob varieties. If his land is inclined to be so cold and heavy that he cannot plant early he should grow the quick-maturing kinds. In selecting a variety he should take into consideration his location, his soil, and what he is growing the corn for—to be fed to his own stock, or to be sold in the ear, or shelled, and plant the best he can get for his purpose, even if it costs three dollars a bushel.

FRED GRUNDY.

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH.

Clearing and Burning. In timbered regions, many men, when clearing, burn the brush as they go; others, thinking this plan burns the ground too much where the fire is built prefer to pile the brush as they go, and burn afterwards. In the latter way it often occurs that when the clearer gets ready to burn the brush the conditions are unfavorable—as stillness of the atmosphere, snow or other forms of moisture—consequently difficulty to make the fire go. Therefore, the best place to build the fire is right on top of the heap. Make a foundation with twigs, etc., on which place the fire and apply the kindlings, persevering till the fire gets to falling into the heap beneath. By this plan the fire can be made to go, when it could by no other.

Starting Fires. Not presuming to teach the housewives how to build a fire in the cooking-stove, I find that placing a layer of fuel on the bottom of the fire-box and then putting the fire in gives two chances for a quick start to one where the usual method is the placing of the fire on the bottom and then the fuel on the fire. Of course, in the method suggested, I suppose that my readers understand that the fire-box is to be filled up with more fuel after the fire is in—thus having the fire between two layers of fuel.

JEFFERSON D. CHEELY.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

NOVELTIES FOR FARM AND GARDEN.—The progressive farmer is never satisfied with his yields of crops or his varieties of vegetables and grains. He is always looking for something better. While this is as it should be, enterprising fellows take advantage of the situation in crowding upon our attention a vast amount of inferior stuff that finds a market among us at a high price. Reputable seedsmen test their novelties and seek to weed out the worthless, but others use less care, and every year many thousands of dollars are paid out by farmers for new varieties of plants that are inferior to those already on the farms. Amidst the hundreds of novelties offered each spring it is impossible to choose those of decided merit, but the farmer that grows for market only does well to remember that a superior variety—an improvement upon standard ones—appears only at rare intervals.

WORTHLESS TESTS.—It is the custom of a majority of farmers to give a novelty the best possible chance, and the result is nearly valueless. I recall an instance in my own early experience in the case of a new variety of potato. One pound of seed was planted in highly fertilized soil, and the yield was two hundred and twenty-two pounds of fine tubers. They appeared so choice that the seedsmen had no difficulty in securing a favorable report from me, and that testimonial stared me in the face in his catalogue for years after common field culture had shown that the variety was inferior to some old varieties. I learned then that the practical test of novelties for the farmer consisted in planting them in the field by the side of standard varieties, exactly the same care being given all. We incline to nurse novelties, and then comes disappointment.

WATCHING OTHERS' EXPERIMENTS.—It may not seem "progressive," but really much of one's experimentation may be carried on by one's neighbors. It is folly to close one's eyes to results on the other side of the line fence. In every neighborhood there is some man who has a variety of wheat, or corn, or potatoes, or berries that is particularly well adapted to the soil or climate of that locality. Nine times out of ten that variety will prove to be superior to all the novelties of the year. The best one for that locality has been found, and those who are watchful know the fact. A superior one will appear in time, probably, but lots of "booming" will not make an inferior one good, merely because it is a novelty. Certainly I do not condemn some testing of new varieties—this work is part of the pleasure we find in farming—but I do insist that the best variety for our farm is often the one a successful neighbor has had for years, and we should be quick to see the fact and profit by it. Make your neighbors' experiments pay you.

EARLY POTATOES.—New varieties of early potatoes appear with a flourish of trumpets every spring. One variety is the "earliest," and another is ten minutes earlier. But it is a noteworthy fact that the old and standard variety, "Early Ohio," is quoted for seed in city markets every spring at a price about double that of other kinds of potatoes. All early varieties require very rich soil, and if this old variety be given favorable conditions it gives about as early tubers for the table as any of the scores of high-priced novelties. But in recent years it has lost in productiveness in many sections, and is especially subject to both scab and blight. For flavor it is unsurpassed. If one could secure seed true to name, the Southern second-crop seed of Early Beauty of Hebron would please Northern growers. For earliness—that is, quickness in attaining marketable size—the variety that makes few sets in the hill is wanted. The second-crop seed of the Hebron has this habit, and many truckers want no other seed. The Early Thoroughbred resists blight better than the Ohio, and is early. It is my experience, however, that this variety is quickly affected by dry weather, succeeding rains causing the tubers to be prongy. The Early Harvest is a most palatable potato, though hardly as early as some others. But for early potatoes there is more in the soil and method of planting than in variety, oftentimes. A very rich, well-drained soil is needed. The seed should be cut to one eye, or better yet,

it should be a liberal piece in size, and the plants should be thinned to one stock. The point is to control the number of sets. When this is done in a rich, warm soil, any early variety will seem to be the earliest of all.

VITALITY OF SEEDS.—The average farmer is too slightly impressed by the serious loss that comes annually to us as a result of the low vitality of much seed. It is not enough that a seed finally send up a plant of some kind. The weakly plant is like the sickly and lank colt or calf—usually not worth raising. Examine the corn and potato and wheat fields before the crop ripens, and note too often a large percentage of stalks that are too puny to make it possible that they furnish a full yield. It is the seed that is chock-full of vitality that sends up a fat and thrifty stalk. We can trust it to do its duty. Some varieties have greater vitality than others—maturing better, resisting disease and insects more completely, and storing up food for the new plant. Then there is much in selection and handling. This is especially true of potatoes. Like begets like, and only the thrifty hill of potatoes or corn should provide seed for another year. Our carelessness dwarfs our incomes.

VARIETIES OF APPLES.—The man who proposes to set out an orchard can make no greater mistake than that of choosing varieties either by the plates of agents or by the general reputation of the variety. The apple that grows to great perfection in one section, and commands a high price in city markets, may be an utter failure fifty miles away. Elevation above sea-level and soil have much to do with this. Every section has its popular variety for market, and the young orchardist will be slow to risk much on varieties that have not been proven a success in his neighborhood. The best market apple for a neighborhood is not necessarily one of high quality. It must have good color and size. The York Imperial is a good illustration. The Ben Davis is another. Each is extensively grown in certain sections with profit, and new orchards are being set with no other varieties in those particular sections, because profit is wanted, but no one claims high quality for them.

Appearance goes far in selling fruits and vegetables. In fact, excepting in the case of private customers of producers, appearance is nearly the sole gauge of city buyers. So long as this is true it is our business to furnish products attractive in appearance, having regard to palatableness only in so far as it may go easily with attractive appearance. In the case of apples, the two combine best in northern latitudes. The varieties of best quality in New York and the mountain regions of Pennsylvania will not hang on the tree in lower elevations or in lower latitudes. There are choice varieties for these warmer sections, but not many profitable ones for market. These are grown for home use and local consumers, but for market the farmer who proposes to plant should choose the varieties that are most productive and showy. They are the ones, as a rule, that are already doing well in orchards near at hand. Experiment with novelties, but plant standard varieties for profit.

DAVID.

CROP ROTATION.

The importance of a systematic crop rotation is greatly overlooked by many farmers. The writer can remember when, not more than thirty or thirty-five years ago, farmers kept certain fields for certain crops, year after year, some fields for oats or barley, some for buckwheat or corn, and others for meadows. This was not a scientific way of farming and could not be expected to be profitable in the long run. But as the soil was then in its virgin state even this misuse gave fairly good results. It is very different at the present day. The soil, as a rule, is exhausted. Through neglect of properly fertilizing many fields have become impoverished and no longer produce paying crops. The question is, how can we speedily improve our land with the least expense, and at the same time receive some income from our worn-out farms? This can be accomplished by

SHORT ROTATION.

No amount of fertilizer, either common stable manure or any of the artificial compounds of the trade, can keep land in condition to produce the same crop for an indefinite length of time. The crop will grow less vigorously, year after year, until at last it fails entirely, although the land may be

in the very best condition for other crops. But change the crops, give the land something else to do, and it will respond with renewed energy. No two crops draw the same kind of plant-food from the soil. The rotation of crops, together with deep, thorough tillage, will restore the land in a few years to its former condition, especially if clover forms one of the rotation.

A three-year rotation, namely, clover, corn or potatoes, and oats or barley, will be more effectual in bringing up land than in a longer rotation. Two-years' product of manure, both solid and liquid, which must be saved and used in the most economical way, should be applied to one of the crops. I have always practiced applying the same on the clover stubble, drawing out and spreading through the winter as fast as made, to be plowed under in the spring for the potato crop. It is a mistake to let manure accumulate in the barn-yard and lie there any great length of time. Manure will never be any better than when first taken from the stable, and the longer it is left in the barn-yard the more liable it is to waste by fire-fanging, leaching, etc.

As we hardly ever have manure enough to go all over the required number of acres, even if spread sparingly, the remainder must receive the benefit of the season's growth of clover (the second crop may do), to be left on the field and plowed under the same as the manure. If we work our farms in this way, and do the work of cultivating the various crops thoroughly, our land will rapidly improve and farming be made profitable.

SEEDING CLOVER.

However, there is one drawback in this three-year rotation; we are compelled to seed after spring grain. For many years I have observed that clover is not as sure to catch and does not do as well, even after a good catch, as when sown on winter grain. For this reason I favor and practice the four-year rotation, letting a crop of winter grain (rye, because it is better adapted for this locality) follow the spring grain. This enables us to sow our clover-seed at just the right time, either on a new-fallen snow or on the frozen ground at the opening of spring. I have never lost a seeding by doing so, although some of my neighbors object to this early seeding for fear the clover-seed might sprout and then be killed by late frost. According to my experience their fear is without foundation. Clover-seed, or any other seed, does not sprout in one or two warm days; it requires steady, warm weather and warm soil, and when we have this the danger of being injured by frost is past. We want it to sprout and grow early; earlier than we could possibly get it on the ground, if we had to delay the sowing of it until after sowing our spring seed. When sown on the frozen ground it is more liable to get well covered; the ground is then full of little cracks and crevices in which the little tiny seeds are sure to find their way, and the action of the soil by freezing and thawing completes the covering. Sown at this time the little clover-plants do not only get an early start, but their chance to get deeply rooted is very much in their favor. I consider this the secret of successful clover-seeding; it can resist the droughts, which we frequently have the latter part of spring, better than when sowed after spring grain.

DIVIDING THE WORK.

The four-year rotation gives us another advantage; it divides our work more evenly all through the season. All the work of the rye crop comes at a time when the farmer has nothing driving to do. The sowing is done when the oat crop is out of the way and the potato or corn crop not yet ripe enough to require our attention. The harvesting also comes at a time when no other work is crowding, between haying and oat harvest. By dividing our acreage in this way, setting part of it aside for the rye crop, we have a better chance to do our spring seeding and planting with the necessary care and thoroughness.

G. C. GREINER.

THE VELVET-BEAN.

Many of the daily and weekly papers are printing accounts of a wonderful new, leguminous, nitrogen-gathering, forage crop that, it is claimed, will surpass anything of its class yet introduced. These accounts, like similar reports of new agricultural products, are somewhat rose-colored and also contain some misstatements. In a Michigan paper it is stated concerning this plant that "being an air-plant it will do well on almost any soil, in any of the states, north or south, that will grow corn,

and no fertilizing is necessary." The first misstatement, that the velvet-bean is an air-plant, may be readily accounted for. The legumes—clovers, beans, peas, etc.—are able by means of tubercles upon their roots to procure part of their food from the nitrogen of the air. The velvet-bean also does this. But it does not evolve its splendid crop of forage out of thin air. It is just as dependent upon the mineral elements, potash, phosphoric acid, etc., in the soil, as any of the other leguminous crops. Without these it could not live, let alone produce profitable forage crops.

With respect to its doing well in any of the states where corn will grow, it need only be pointed out that this plant is of tropical origin, having been introduced into Florida from Brazil, that it has been tried extensively in the Gulf states only, and that the seed of the variety now grown does not mature north of Louisiana. It is very doubtful that it will prove valuable either as a green manure or as a fodder crop north of Mason and Dixon's line, at least in its present known variety. Selection may give varieties that will succeed north of this line, but from present knowledge of its behavior it is likely to be of no use where the cow-pea will not thrive.

From what has been said it is hoped that the farmer will not consider the velvet-bean as a fake. Upon the contrary, it is believed from present experience with the crop that, for the people of the South, it will rival, may even supplant, the justly celebrated cow-pea in certain soils and localities. In fact, nothing of its class has yet been introduced that promises so well in that part of the country where it has, so far, been found useful.

M. G. K.

FOLLOW LEAST GRADE IN TILLAGE.

In a paper read at the American Association of Science the attention of farmers was called to the importance of following the least grade in tillage. No farmer would plow up and down a hill, but it is the almost imperceptible grades that are liable to be overlooked. Checking surface-drainage by cultivation, be it ever so slight, means the conservation of more or less moisture, consequently improvement in crops.

J. M. M.

Spring Medicine

Why It Is Necessary—What is the Best

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RUN DOWN IN HEALTH

"I was so much run down in health that life was a burden to me and I could not eat or sleep with any comfort. My food distressed me and I would have dizzy spells and a feeling of faintness would come over me. I was also troubled with weak eyes, headache and lame back. I have taken four bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and I have done more work and stood it better since taking this medicine than I have before for years. Last spring my little boy was troubled with erysipelas, but Hood's Sarsaparilla helped him at once and he has been well all summer." MRS. JULIA B. WYNN, Shell City, Mich.

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Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

GROWING MELONS.—I have often wondered why some of our agricultural contemporaries printed so much from the pen of a certain writer whose only object seemed to be to "boom" soda-ash, "ammonia alkali," etc., but I wonder still more that any respectable paper can be found that will publish such absurd statements as the same writer makes about raising melons ("Ploughman"). Of course, this man recommends to use, with the rotted manure, a "carbonated alkali," "as the melon draws heavily of this ingredient from the soil." Undoubtedly carbonate of soda is meant by this, although it may mean ordinary chalk (carbonate of lime), wood-ashes (carbonate of lime and of potassium), etc. I confess that the application of wood-ashes is usually a good thing; as for that of soda I would not care a fig.

SEED SELECTION.—The following is a quotation from the "Ploughman's" article: "Those who wish to procure melons in perfection must be careful, in the first place, to procure good seed; secondly, to plant them remote from an inferior sort, as well as from cucumbers, squashes, etc., as degeneracy will infallibly be the consequence of inattention to these directions. Seed under the age of two years is apt to run too much to vine, and show only male flowers. Seed twenty years old has been known to grow and make fruitful plants; but seed which has been kept three or four years is quite old enough, and less likely to fail than older."

Good seed? Surely. But this is not always the seed that people plant or have to plant. For seed purposes melons should always be planted very far apart, each variety by itself; otherwise we will be very liable to get mixtures, and perhaps not very desirable ones, either. I never save my own melon-seed for planting, simply because I usually plant a whole lot of different varieties in close proximity to one another. This is perfectly safe if we plant for a crop of melons only, and not for seed. I have never seen any effect from the intermixture of different varieties the first season, if the seed planted was pure. And surely it does not make a particle of difference where we plant our squashes and pumpkins, as they will not mix (hybridize) with melons, and we could not even make them do it if we wanted them to. Occasionally I have seen mixtures of melon and cucumber, but even they do not happen to occur very often. As a theoretical proposition I would prefer seed that is two years old to strictly fresh seed; and yet when I came to test this theory in practice I found very little in it. Nobody need hesitate to plant seed that is three or four years old, if well kept. As I have stated on former occasions, my practice is to buy seed enough one year to last me for two or three, and perhaps four seasons. After the first year I know exactly what kinds of melons I can expect to grow from that seed. Thus I work on correct theoretical lines, and besides, buy my seed more cheaply than if I buy it in smaller quantities as needed for one year only.

SEEDLESS MELONS.—Here is another quotation: "It is said that seedless melons can be produced by burying the vine, when three feet long, four inches deep in the ground and one and one half feet from root of vine, let it remain until it takes root, then cut vine between main root and new root. Melons on vine with new roots will be seedless."

We have seen this statement before. Of course, there is nothing in it. Why should a melon-vine grow from a cutting produce seedless fruits while the fruits of other plants, tomatoes, for instance, when grown from cuttings, have just as many seeds as plants grown from seed? Those among us who have the practical experience in gardening know that these vine-fruits, when grown "on vine with new roots," have seeds just the same. It has been a rather common practice in my gardening operations to "layer" squash-vines; that is, to cover the first joints of winter squash-vines with fresh earth for the purpose of inducing them to throw out new roots from these joints, when borers had invaded the main stalk. In many cases every connection of the main stalk with the earth

was completely severed, so that the plant had to rely entirely on the new roots formed at the joints. Yet the squashes had the usual amount of seeds, and, in fact, we did not expect to find them otherwise. Why should we? I do wish, however, that it were possible for us to find a way to raise seedless watermelons, or at least to breed a kind with seeds all pretty well crowded toward the outside or rind, in order to leave a large seedless core, or heart. This core, as we all know, is the sweetest portion of the melon, and really the only part that I care for.

ANOTHER FAD.—In the "Ploughman's" article we also find something on "fattening melons," as follows: "Before the melon has attained its full size, and while in a growing condition, insert one end of a strip of fine cotton cloth, about half an inch wide and three or four inches long, into the stem of the melon by splitting the stem with a sharp knife, and place the other end of the strip into the neck of a wine-bottle filled with water, inclining the bottle so that the water may be absorbed by the string, which acts as a siphon, and the end on the outside of the bottle should be a little lower than that which is within the bottle. In twenty-four hours the bottle should be refilled, as the water will have been imbibed by the melon, and in a week or ten days will have attained its full size. You will then withhold the water to give it a chance to ripen, otherwise it will be quite insipid and unfit to eat."

I will leave it to our friends who may wish to try the plan to do so. Only don't go at it with too high expectations. Methods of producing tree and vine fruits of monstrous size have been practised and published for many years. Pears of the size of a human head have often been exhibited by French gardeners. The one plan which I have tried with tomatoes (I confess with indifferent results) is to let the fruit grow inside of a glass can or wide-mouthed bottle partially filled with water. The purpose is to surround the fruit with a moist atmosphere in order to prevent the drying out and hardening of the skin.

SUNFLOWERS FOR THE BIRDS.—One of our friends writes me that he has for some time endeavored to grow sunflower-seeds for his hens, but wild birds take the seed to such an extent that he cannot get a full flower. To shoot the birds would be dangerous in a small garden, and so he asks if there is anything in the shape of bird-lime that could be used as a protection. I always like to grow some sunflowers in my garden, and believe that one can find a place for at least a few on the premises of any rural home, perhaps in some waste corner, if the place be very small. They will thrive on almost any soil, but succeed best on rich, alluvial or mucky soil, and if a little wet it will not matter much. The seeds are excellent for poultry, and seem to stimulate egg production. The fowls soon learn to like them, and so will horses and cows and all other domestic animals. Mice and rats and all other rodents are also very fond of the seed, and are most easily trapped when sunflower-seeds are used as bait. Members of the bird tribe surely like the sunflower-seeds, and I do not begrudge them a full meal now and then. In fact, if we were to plant a few sunflowers purposely for the enjoyment and support of our feathered friends, we would do no more than what looks to me as a wise and just thing. The sunflowers will call our bird friends to the place, and induce them to make it their home, and help clear it from insect enemies. Birds deserve our protection, and it is really a small matter to plant for them a few sunflowers, and let them have the whole crop, if they want or need it. Better leave the heads on the stalks in the field or garden all winter. This is doing but very little to pay our little friends for their services. The pleasure of having the birds around alone is worth to us much more than the value of the sunflower-seeds. Indeed, I go much further, and recommend the planting of fruit-trees, such as mulberries and earliest cherries, for the birds' especial benefit. Governor Wood makes a good cherry for this purpose, and among the mulberries we can use the Russian sorts, which are hardy and free annual bearers, even if the fruit is not as good as the true Downing's Everbearing, to good advantage. By all that is great and good, let us be kind to our feathered friends.

T. GREINER.

THE CULTIVATION OF PRUNES.

The cultivation of prunes has become an important and paying industry in the western and northwestern part of the United States. New land is being planted every year, and the orchards that have reached five years or more in age are proving excellent investments. Six years ago the entire product of prunes in the United States was only 20,000 pounds, while importations reached 66,000,000 pounds. Conditions are rapidly changing, and the Pacific coast states now produce nearly 50,000,000 pounds annually. The trees are grafted on good plum stock, are very hardy and yield immensely. A good prune orchard seven years old will produce an average of two hundred pounds of marketable fruit a year, and net the owner at least five dollars for each tree.

Prune-trees are usually planted on the square system, twenty feet apart; thus there are one hundred and eight trees to the acre. The one-year-old trees, costing about fifteen cents each, are generally preferred, as they make the most vigorous growth. Thorough cultivation of the ground before and after planting is necessary if a good orchard is expected. The trees begin to bear the fourth year, when the yield ranges from ten to thirty pounds to each tree, and the next season the yield will be double. When the trees are seven years old, under favorable conditions they will produce an average of at least two hundred pounds of marketable fruit.

The varieties of prunes most generally planted are the French, German, Italian and Silver. When picked and prepared for market, they are graded according to the average number required to weigh a pound. The grades are usually four, and the prunes sell accordingly. Those that weigh twenty-five to thirty to the pound always command the highest prices. The average price for good prunes is about five cents a pound. All varieties, except the Silver, are gathered by shaking the trees; a blanket or sheet is spread beneath the tree when the fruit begins to ripen, and all that will shake off are picked up and sorted. The Silver prune must be picked by hand and handled more carefully than the other varieties. This is a large fruit, frequently weighing eighteen to the pound, and always sells at fancy prices. After picking or shaking, the prunes are graded, usually with a machine, costing about seventy-five dollars, and dried. The most approved method is by the use of evaporators, but many fruit men dry their prunes in the sun. Those that run as many as one hundred and twenty five to the pound are thrown away, while the others are dipped in a solution of lye and put out to dry.

The dipping in lye-water is done to crack the skin so that the moisture in the fruit may escape and the prunes dry more readily. Some fruit-growers use a barrel of cold water to dip the fruit in after coming from the lye solution, while others deem it unnecessary. The fruit is then put into wooden trays, and placed in the sun to dry, or taken to the evaporator. If dried by the sun, about ten days is allowed to make sure that the fruit is thoroughly dry; it then is poured into boxes, not above one hundred pounds in one box. When all the prunes are dried the fruit is submitted to another hot bath. The same process is repeated, except that pure hot water is used. After every prune has become hot, which requires probably two minutes, they are spread out to dry. The drying in this case requires but one day in the sun. The object of the last bath is to wash off the lye and give the fruit a nice, glossy appearance. It also kills all insects and destroys the eggs of flies.

Packing follows the last washing of prunes and is done according to the taste of growers. Some merely pack in sacks or large boxes and sell in bulk, while others prepare the prunes in neat packages for the market. The two best grades are packed in attractive, five-pound boxes, eight boxes in a crate. Grade three is packed in twenty-five-pound boxes, and the fourth grade is merely sacked. Some packers use a slight sugar-syrup or diluted glycerin, in the small boxes of choice prunes, to make the fruit glossy and more salable. The market is always assured in any of the large cities, or wherever commission merchants do business. Many farmers sell their prunes in the orchard and do not attempt to dry or pack the fruit. If sold green or dried the prune pays a handsome profit to those who give it proper attention. JOEL SHOMAKER.

A Woman Florist.

5
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CORRESPONDENCE.

PLANTING PEACH-TREES.—D. H. W., Farmers' Station, Ohio, writes: I planted a large orchard of peach-trees last spring and had very good success. As early as possible in the spring I broke my ground and harrowed it thoroughly. Then I took my single-shovel plow and marked it off sixteen and one half feet each way. One man with a spade went ahead and dug out the crosses. I, with a little sharp hoe with a handle about twelve inches long, and another man, with a long-handled hoe, did the setting. A little boy drove the wagon with the trees in it along the row, and gave us the trees as we wanted them. I took the tree and cut off all roots that were broken or bruised, by simply letting the roots rest on the ground, and giving a lick with the little sharp hoe; then I set the tree in place and drew in loose earth until the tree would stand alone; then the man with the long-handled hoe finished by drawing in earth until it was piled up over the old stock, or about where it was budded, and pressed the earth firmly down with his feet. We were fifteen hours setting the one thousand and thirty-seven trees. I then went to work with the knife and cut off every limb and the main stock to about two and one half or three feet. I planted corn between the rows and cultivated the corn and trees together, keeping the ground loose and the weeds down. About the 20th of July we gave them a coating of flye soap, made like thin paint by mixing with rain-water, with old paint or varnish brushes, to keep off the borers. Three of us

did the work in one half day. The 10th of August we repeated the application of soap. The trees made a very good growth and are fine. When planting, I noticed two trees with knots on them about the size of a walnut just under the bud. Those two trees died, and thus I lost two trees out of one thousand and thirty-seven.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Best Apple Varieties For New York.—C. G. W., Rome, N. Y. I would recommend that you consult Prof. S. A. Beach, of the New York Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., and get his advice in this matter, as he is one of the best authorities on fruit-growing in your state, and will be pleased to respond to your inquiries. I am sure that the following is a good list, but in a matter of this sort it is very important to start just right. I would recommend Northern Spy, Baldwin, Rhode Island Greening, Sutton Beauty. You should remember, too, that a loose, gravelly soil is not most favorable for growing apples, and will require much attention to keep it in the best condition for tree growth. If, however, it has a porous clay sub-soil, it is probably good orchard-land.

Imperfect Fruit.—A. M. S., Riceville, Tenn., writes: "I want to do something to improve or protect my fruits, and in order that I may proceed intelligently, would like to know the cause of its failings. (1) I have a few trees of Horse apples; these fall off before becoming ripened. My Willow Twigs bear beautifully, but none are perfect; many are very small, some have worms at core, and all are (2) scarred. These trees are about twelve years old. My old orchard is in about the same fix—apples small and very imperfect, and (3) trunks girdled with small, round holes. The soil seems fair to good. Fertilizer would, no doubt, improve the fruit. (4) The few peach-trees on the place are old, and the fruit rots before or at about the time of ripening. My young peach-trees, set in 1894, have bloomed, but set no fruit yet. (5) Would spraying cure all these ills? (6) I have two apple-trees, seemingly of stunted growth; they are full of fruit that does not mature, but hangs on and dries up on the trees. Some are hanging on even now. Please give me a lecture in FARM AND FIRESIDE, and oblige."

REPLY:—(1) It is probable that your Horse

apple falls off on account of the larvæ of the codling-moth which works into the core of this, your Willow Twigs, and other apples. (2) The scars on your apples, it seems to me, must be what is known as apple-scab, which is a very common disease of the apple. (3) The holes in your trees are probably caused by woodpeckers, who make the holes to allow the sap to run out, that they may catch the insects that gather to drink the sap. The only remedy for this is to destroy the woodpeckers. Some of the woodpeckers do so little injury in this way that they more than make up for it by the good they probably do in destroying insects; but what is known as the sap-sucker woodpecker often digs large holes in the trunks of trees, and should be destroyed, as he is a serious menace to orchard-trees. (4) Your peaches are probably caused to rot by what is known as the monilia fungus. The disease is carried over in the dried peaches that generally hang on the trees over winter. The same disease also affects plums in the same way. (5) Think your trees must be injured by the woolly aphis borers or some other insect, and you had better examine the roots and trunks for them, although it may be that you have a slow-growing kind, and growing as they do, in poor soil, and bearing yearly, they cannot make much wood, nor even mature their fruit, and it is taken by some disease. The remedies for these troubles are to be found first in better cultivation. If in soil it should be broken up, and perhaps some potash and ground bone applied, then seed down to cow-peas or some other cover-crop, and plow them in when they are full grown. If there is room for some hoed crop between the trees, some plant-food should be applied to keep up the fertility of the soil. If the trees stand pretty thick, don't try to raise any other crop on the land, but let the trees have the whole of it. The codling-moth which makes your apples wormy, and the scab that makes them unsightly and deformed, may be kept in check or wholly remedied by spraying as follows: When buds are swelling, spray with Bordeaux mixture. When blossoms have fallen, apply Bordeaux mixture and Paris green; eight to twelve days later apply the same again, and again ten to fourteen days later apply Bordeaux without Paris green. For the peach-rot, apply Bordeaux mixture as the buds swell. When fruit is fairly set, apply it again, and a third time when the fruit is about one half grown. A week later use the weak copper sulphate solution, two ounces to fifty gallons of water. The directions for making Bordeaux mixture will be found under that head in these columns.

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SPRAYING CALENDAR.

PLANT.	FIRST APPLICATION.	SECOND APPLICATION.	THIRD APPLICATION.	FOURTH APPLICATION.	FIFTH APPLICATION.
APPLE..... (Scab, codling-moth, bud-moth. Tent-caterpillar, canker-worm, plum-curculio.)	When buds are swelling, Bordeaux.	If canker-worms are abundant, just before blossoms open, Bordeaux and Paris green.	When blossoms have fallen, Bordeaux and Paris green.	8-12 days later, Bordeaux and Paris green.	10-14 days later, Bordeaux.
BEAN..... (Anthracnose.)	When third leaf expands, Bordeaux.	10 days later, Bordeaux.	14 days later, Bordeaux.	14 days later, Bordeaux.	Spraying after the pod is one half grown will injure them for market.
CABBAGE..... (Worms.)	Insect-powder.	7-10 days later, insect-powder.	7-10 days later, insect-powder.	Repeat third in 10-14 days, if necessary.	
CHERRY*..... (Rot, aphid, slug. Black-knot.)	As buds are breaking, Bordeaux; when aphid appears, Kerose emulsion.	When fruit has set, Bordeaux. If slugs appear, dust leaves with air-slaked lime. Hell-bore.	10-14 days, if rot appears, Bordeaux.	10-14 days later weak solution of copper sulphate.	
CURRENT..... GOOSEBERRY }..... (Worms. Leaf-blight.)	At first sign of worms, hell-bore.	10 days later, hell-bore, Bordeaux.	If worms persist, hell-bore.	After fruit is gathered, Bordeaux.	
GRAPE..... (Fungous diseases. Rose-bug.)	In spring, when buds swell, Bordeaux.	Just before flowers unfold, Bordeaux.	When fruit has set, Bordeaux.	2 to 4 weeks later, Bordeaux.	2 to 4 weeks later, if any disease appears, weak solution copper sulphate.
NURSERY STOCK..... (Fungous diseases.)	When first leaves appear, Bordeaux.	10-14 days, repeat first.	10-14 days repeat first.	10-14 days, repeat first.	10-14 days, repeat first.
PEACH, NECTARINE..... (Rot, mildew.)	As the buds swell, Bordeaux.	When fruit has set, Bordeaux.	When fruit is one half grown, Bordeaux.	5-7 days later, weak solution copper sulphate.	5-7 days later, repeat fourth.
PEAR..... (Leaf-blight, scab, psylla, codling-moth.)	As buds are swelling, Bordeaux.	Just before blossoms open, Bordeaux. Kerose emulsion when leaves open, for psylla.	After blossoms have fallen, Bordeaux and Paris green. Kerose emulsion, if necessary.	8-12 days later, repeat third.	10-14 days later, Bordeaux.
PLUM*..... (Curculio. Black-knot. leaf-blight, brown-rot.)	When buds are swelling, Bordeaux.	When blossoms have fallen, Bordeaux and Paris green. Begin to jar trees for curculio.	10-14 days later, Bordeaux.	10-23 days later, Bordeaux.	10-20 days later, weak solution copper sulphate.
QUINCE..... (Leaf and fruit spot.)	When blossom-buds appear, Bordeaux.	When fruit has set, Bordeaux.	10-20 days later, Bordeaux.	10-20 days later, Bordeaux.	10-20 days later, Bordeaux.
RASPBERRY, BLACKBERRY, DEWBERRY, }..... (Anthracnose. Leaf-blight.)	Before buds break, Bordeaux.	Bordeaux just before the blossoms open.	(Orange or red rust is treated best by destroying the plant.)	Spray, after fruit is gathered, with Bordeaux.	
STRAWBERRY..... (Rust.)	As soon as growth begins, with Bordeaux.	When first blossoms open, spray young plantation, Bordeaux.	Spray young plantation, Bordeaux.	Repeat third if foliage rusts.	
TOMATO..... (Rot, blight.)	Before appearance of blight or rot, Bordeaux.	Repeat first if diseases are not checked. Fruit can be wiped if disfigured by Bordeaux.	Repeat first, when necessary.		
POTATO..... (Flea-beetle, Colorado beetle, blight and rot.)	Spray with Paris green and Bordeaux when 1/2 grown.	Repeat before insects become numerous.	Repeat for blight, rot and insects as potatoes approach maturity.		

*Black-knot on plums or cherries should be cut and burned as soon as discovered.

*For aphides, or plant-lice, use kerosene emulsion on all plants.

INSECTICIDES.

While there are many new insecticides offered, there is so little exact knowledge of their effect upon farm and garden crops that until further trial is made we can only recommend for general use Paris green and hell-bore for chewing insects, kerosene emulsion for sucking insects, with pyrethrum or insect-powder in a few cases.

FUNGICIDES.—BORDEAUX MIXTURE.

FORMULA: Four pounds copper sulphate (blue vitriol), four pounds caustic lime (unslaked lime).

Dissolve the copper in hot water. (If suspended in a basket or sack in a tub of cold water it will, however, dissolve in from two to three hours.)

The lime is then slaked in another vessel, adding water slowly, that it may be thoroughly slaked. When both are cool, pour together, straining the lime through

a fine-mesh sieve or burlap strainer, and thoroughly mix. Before using, add water to make fifty gallons of the mixture.

The active agent in this mixture is the copper, the lime being used simply to hold it in place upon the foliage and branches of the plants sprayed. Here it is given up gradually, destroying the spores of the fungi as they are brought in contact with it by the surrounding atmosphere.

Should the lime be air-slaked at all, more than four pounds may be needed, as it will have lost much of its strength.

This fungicide is recommended as more satisfactory than any other, from the fact that it adheres a long time to the branches, buds and leaves and seldom causes any injury to the foliage.

It has been found more effectual if made up fresh for each application. Two or three thorough applications give better

results than many light ones. When both fungous growths and insects attack a crop, Paris green should be applied with the Bordeaux, at the rate of one pound to 150 gallons, as in a combined state both are as effective as if used singly, one half of the labor is saved, and there is less danger from injury to the foliage by the Paris green than if used alone.

DILUTE COPPER SULPHATE SOLUTION.

After the fruit has nearly matured it is often disfigured by the adhesion of the Bordeaux mixture, and in place of the ammoniacal carbonate of copper recommended in Bulletin No. 37 we would advise the use of copper sulphate—two ounces to fifty gallons of water. The foliage of many plants will stand a much stronger solution, but this is as concentrated as can be generally used.—Bulletin of Massachusetts Agricultural College.

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PRESERVING THE BREEDS.

BREEDERS are claimed to devote more attention to points than to utility, but such is not the case with breeders who understand breeding. They are compelled, for the preservation of their stock, to breed for vigor and stamina. It may be the breeder's opportunity to retain a bird when he finds among the members of his flock that is superior one that excels in the requirements of the standard on comb, ear-lobes, plumage, tail, shanks, etc., but which may be deficient in some respect, perhaps not as strong and vigorous as some; but the breeder will be careful to endeavor to correct any defects in the offspring by mating the superior show-room bird with the hardiest and healthiest hens and pullets he owns, provided they are also not deficient in standard requirements. Why should not the farmer also combine pleasure with business, by endeavoring to secure beauty as well as utility? When the breeders at the shows insist upon perfection of plumage, and will not allow deformity of any kind, they must preserve the purity of the breeds. If defects of plumage were allowed the breeds would be represented by cross-bred fowls, size and weight being given the preference; but the final outcome would be the obliteration of the pure breeds and the multiplication of new ones, none of them having any points for determining their true breeding. Standard requirements and breeding for "points" tend to improve and prevent the extinction of breeds. If the farmer would become interested in the points of the breeds he would then know when he has pure-bred fowls, and would not, as some now do, use Plymouth Rocks which possess feathered shanks because they were bought for Plymouth Rocks, and there would be fewer mongrels on farms. It is the "points" that have kept up the improvement of breeds, as impurity has been driven out, and it is just as easy to manage the best as to care for others. It is also not at all difficult to have birds perfect in plumage and at the same time as hardy and as useful as any; in fact, more useful than nondescripts.

BUYING BIRDS OR EGGS.

Some prefer to buy fowls in the fall, when they are cheap, while others wait until spring to procure eggs. Which mode is the better one depends upon circumstances. It is usually the rule to buy a trio of fowls—a male and two hens—the cost varying from \$3 to \$10, according to the quality of the stock. The two hens will lay enough eggs to permit of raising a hundred chicks, of which fifty may be pullets. If one gets a flock of twenty-five pullets, allowing for all drawbacks and the sales of culls, it will be a very fair return from the trio. Now if a beginner buys eggs, he will have to purchase eight or ten dozen to get as good results as from the trio. There is, therefore, a saving of time in procuring the trio. It is also more satisfactory to procure the trio, as there are many difficulties in procuring eggs and have them come safely. When one has the hens on the place the eggs used will always be fresh and will be surer in hatching.

BREEDS AND COLORS.

Breeders are disposed to create new breeds every year, each introduction having some characteristic of excellence, so claimed, that was not before possessed by its predecessors. If new breeds cannot be introduced, then the old breeds are divided into several colors. For many years the well-known Plymouth Rocks were barred, and became favorites, but now there are white and buff Plymouth Rocks, the two breeds, however, differing from the barred variety in color. In Leghorns there are the white, buff, black, dominique and brown varieties, and to have more of them they have been divided into the rose-comb and single-comb families. Now, the color preference or the form of the comb has nothing to do with egg-laying. One variety is fully as good for all purposes as the others, but the multiplication of breeds is confusing to the beginner, as he naturally supposes that each has some advantage over the others, but it is really a preference of color only.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

While it is proper to keep the breeds separate during those periods of the year when the eggs are to be used for hatching, it is a saving of time, labor and fencing to let them out on the fields together until spring comes. It is the impression on the part of some that when birds of different breeds are allowed together the purity of the flock will be impaired; but if the breeds are separated a month before the eggs are used there will be no evidence of impurity in the chicks hatched. Where one has two or three breeds it is somewhat difficult to keep them separate without confining them in yards, and as by so doing more work becomes necessary, it is not advisable to separate them a day longer than the last egg for hatching is taken. There is a safeguard, however, should doubt be entertained in regard to retaining the purity of the breeds, and that is to get rid of all males now and procure "new blood" next spring. It is not necessary to have the males with the hens, as they will lay as many eggs without the males as when they are present with the flock.

ROOSTING ON TREES.

It is believed by some, and they are not all farmers, but fanciers or breeders, that fowls will thrive just as well outside of the poultry-house, on the trees, as when given quarters, provided plenty of food is allowed. They claim that the birds get more fresh air and are less liable to disease. It may be stated, however, that it is seldom that those who keep their fowls in the predicament of facing cold winds, snows, rains, etc., get any eggs in winter. It is true that some of the birds survive the ordeal, but they are the ones that find sheltered locations which break the force of the winds. When the winter is over their combs will be gone, their feet frozen, and their bodies thin and poor. It is only the "survival of the fittest" from flocks kept on a farm for years that live through the cold winters, and any attempt to test the outside theory with flocks that have been cared for will result in failures. The outdoor system is a backward step in poultry-keeping, and has been tried for years with loss to the farmers.

DROOPY HENS.

When a hen is droopy, it does not mean that she must be treated with some remedy. Like human individuals, fowls are affected by the weather, a northeast storm sometimes causing them to be less active than at other times. Again, when fowls have been fed very heavily on grain they will become dull and droopy, in which case it is only necessary to withhold all food for a few days. A bird may receive an injury in some manner, which frequently results, such as happens mostly when the roost is high, the remedy being to keep the birds without roosts, on straw, for a few days.

HATCHING BANTAMS.

The custom of hatching bantams in the fall, in order to have them as small as possible, is a mistake, as a larger number are lost from lice and other causes if they hatch out late in the year. They should be hatched in the spring, the same as chicks of large breeds, and they will be much prettier and useful. Bantams will lay more eggs, in weight, in proportion to size and cost, than other kinds, but to have them prove good layers the pullets should be hatched early in the year.

THE NESTS AT THIS SEASON.

As soon as the weather seems to moderate the lice begin to appear, and they always make a first start in the nests, which are warmed by the bodies of the fowls. When preparing the nests, especially for sitters, place fresh earth at the bottom, cover the earth with cut hay or straw, and then dust the nests well with fresh Dalmatian insect-powder, repeating the process at least once a week. The young chicks that hatch out will thus be protected and may be raised with less difficulty.

CEMENT AND BOARD FLOORS.

Wood floors are better than any others if they are kept well littered with dry dirt and cut straw as absorbents; but rats will manage to burrow under wooden floors and do more or less damage. Cement floors are excellent, but are cold in winter. With cement floors litter comes in quite handily.

Earth floors are preferred, and are really the best, but four or five inches of the top soil should be removed once every three months or it will be impregnated with filth or disease. Wood floors, with half-inch wire netting around the sides of the poultry-house, the wire extending eighteen inches into the ground, to keep rats from getting under the floor, will be found equal to any that can be adopted for safety.

WARM FOOD.

The only advantage from warm food is derived in the winter. In the summer it is not necessary. On cold mornings, when the fowls leave the roost chilled from a whole night of inactivity, they will be much invigorated by a mess of warm food. The warmth carried into the body in the food will be absorbed and the fowls will become comfortable much sooner than when the food is cold. The poultrymen who understand the value of warmth not only give the food warm in the morning, but give warm water, also, three times a day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHAT A TRIO DID.—Who can show a better record? A trio of white Plymouth Rocks commenced to lay the 21st of January, last year, and were kept in a pen eight by ten feet. January, 12 eggs; February, 45; March, 55; April, 52; May, 52; June, 45; July, 39; August, 45; September, 34; October, 45; November, 16; December, 17. Total, 457. L. R. W. Cold Spring, N. Y.

AN EXCELLENT RECORD FOR WINTER.—I have taken the FARM AND FIRESIDE for about eight years. Now, if you can spare room for a few lines, I will give the record of my hens. I am keeping a small flock of hens (Black Langshans). January 1, 1896, I had 27 hens; January 1, 1898, 22 hens. Here is the egg record for each month: January, 165 eggs; February, 172; March, 320; April, 380; May, 419; June, 426; July, 390; August, 367; September, 307; October, 243; November, 157; December, 200. Total, 3,546 eggs, or 295½ dozen. The eggs averaged 21 cents a dozen, bringing \$62.05; dressed four hens, which sold for \$3.51. Total cash received, \$65.56; cost of feed used, \$21.18; net profit, \$44.38. For January, 1898, the same hens laid 278 eggs, which sold for 30 cents a dozen, and brought me \$8.35. MRS. J. E. M.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Turkeys.—A. P., North Edgcomb, Maine, writes: "My turkeys have swelled heads. Their eyes run water, are closed every morning, and there is a discharge from the nostrils."

REPLY:—It is due to exposure to winds. Anoint eyes and face with vaseline, and inject two or three drops into each nostril of a mixture of one part peroxide of hydrogen and three parts water. Feed lean meat as a portion of the ration.

Number of Males.—M. G. T., Williams, Iowa, writes: "1. How many ducks should he with one drake? 2. Same with gophers and turkey hens? 3. Same with geese? I am a beginner."

REPLY:—1. Five or six. 2. Eight to twelve. 3. Geese usually pair, but frequently one gander and two females may be mated.

Oyster-shells.—J. T. C., Spring Valley, Ill., writes: "How should oyster-shells be given to poultry?"

REPLY:—Grind them coarsely and scatter over the ground, so that the fowls may pick up as much as they desire. They will not swallow too much of them.

Young Males.—A. L. M., Garland, N. Y., writes: "Are my last year's males as suitable as those two and three years old? Last year we used young males and got very few chicks."

REPLY:—It is unwise to use immature stock of any kind. The males should be at least eighteen months old for best results. The eggs will hatch, but chicks will be stronger from two-year-old parents. It is possible that the fowls were overfed last year.

Hens Not Laying.—"Subscriber" writes: "I have forty-six hens and pullets, and they have not laid since last September. I feed them steamed corn in the morning and corn-meal at night. Twice a week they receive ground bone."

REPLY:—Give a greater variety of food. You have given too much of one kind and probably fed too heavily. Reduce the grain and give lean meat and cut clover.

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Queries.

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Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Horse-sorrel.—J. E. Pleasantville, Iowa. Horse-sorrel can be eradicated by thorough cultivation and by growing smothering crops, such as red clover.

German Hares.—J. M. P., Hoekingport, Ohio, and others. For circular of instructions on breeding and rearing German hares, write to The Samuel Wilson Co., Mechanicsville, Pa.

Tobacco Culture.—J. B. C., Rockville, Idaho. Write to Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for Farmers' Bulletin No. 6.—Tobacco: Instructions for its Cultivation and Curing.

Azaleas.—E. M., Plymouth, Mich. The American azaleas and the varieties bred from are hardy in your latitude. They thrive best in rich garden soil to which a compost of leaf-mold has been added.

Polishing Cow-horns.—H. M. L., Romney, W. Va. Boil the horns until the inside can be easily removed. When dry, scrape with glass and rub down with powdered pumice-stone and linseed-oil.

Strong and Mild Onions.—H. G. R., Bucyrus, Ohio. What to do to prevent onions from being strong or "hot"? Simply plant milder varieties, such as Prizetaker, Gibraltar, etc. These sorts are very mild.—T. GREINER.

Brick or Frame Dairy-house.—J. E. D., Kempstown, Md. Cost of materials and labor and other conditions must be considered to determine which is better to build, a brick or frame dairy-house. Properly constructed, and with cement floor and plastered walls, one kind is as good as the other for keeping milk and butter.

To Locate a Spring.—R. I. M., Massapeag, Conn. writes: "Is there any sure way of locating a spring, except by digging? I wish to locate one near the foot of a steep hill."

REPLY:—Not that we know of, water-witching to the contrary. You may be able to get a supply of flowing water by tunneling into the hill, but it is uncertain.

Cabbage-maggots.—F. W. C., Young's Island, S. C., writes: "What is the cause of maggots in cabbages after they have been set out about two months, and what is the remedy for them?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—A fly closely resembling our common house-fly lays its eggs on the stem of the cabbage-plant, near the ground, and the worms that hatch out of these eggs do the damage. The best thing to do, perhaps, is to use tarred paper collars which fit closely around the stem of the plant on top of the ground, and prevent the fly from laying eggs on that plant.

Bacterial Blight of Potatoes, etc.—W. J. P., Society Hill, S. C., writes: "I have planted Irish potatoes in my garden for the last three years, with no success; the vines grow very fine and when about one and one half feet high, and sometimes when in bloom, they die down as if the roots were cut off, and those that do not die bear potatoes which nearly all rot (wet rot). My tomatoes act in the same way; they get full of fruit and then wither and die as if roots were cut. The soil is a sandy loam; it used to be damp, but has been drained three or four years ago. Can you tell me what to do?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—This undoubtedly is a bacterial blight, isolated cases of which I have seen at various times, and affecting potatoes, tomatoes, egg-plant, etc. I am not aware that anything can be done to prevent it, except planting on new ground. It is likely, too, that the infection is carried in the seed-potatoes. So the use of new, clean seed must also be recommended. For further information about the nature of this disease, you might ask the Department of Agriculture, Section of Vegetable Pathology, Washington, D. C., or your own experiment station.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Actinomyces.—J. D. J., Greencastle, Ind. What you describe appears to be actinomyces in the jaw-bone, and probably incurable.

A Lame Hog.—J. R., Bridgeville, Del. The seat and the nature of the lameness cannot be made out from your inquiry, hence I cannot advise you except to have the animal examined by a veterinarian.

"Thumps" in Pigs.—A. D. McC., Batavia, Iowa. So-called "thumps" (a kind of jerky heaving of the flanks at each breath) in pigs is often a conspicuous symptom of swine-plague, and is entirely different from what is called "thumps" in horses.

Possibly Pyemia.—T. N. R., Rainier, Ore. From your description it appears that your horse, most probably, suffered from pyemia, which caused the formation of an abscess in one of the most vital organs and thus sudden death. A post-mortem examination would have revealed the cause of death.

Appears to be a Case of Symptomatic Anthrax.—G. W. R., Sumner, Okla. Although there is to my knowledge but one case of symptomatic anthrax, or so-called black-leg, in horses on record, described by Ganter and related by Friedberger and Froehner, there can be hardly any doubt that your mule died of the same disease.

Wounded Two Years Ago.—A. A. C., Elwood, Neb. In a case like yours a local examination will be necessary to determine what can be done and what has to be done to effect improvement.

Kyphosis.—A. McF., Napa, Cal. Kyphosis, or a curving upward of the spinal column, usually in the lumbar region, is often the result of young, loose-jointed horses or mares, with comparatively long loins, are compelled to do harder work (pulling) than they are able to do. Such a curvature of the spine, although permanent in some cases, admits of more or less improvement if such a young animal is well kept and freed from all kind of hard work until old enough and strong enough. The treatment you propose is no remedy at all; on the contrary, might make the evil worse.

Possibly Ringworm.—G. H. K., Knoxville, Tenn. What you attempt to describe—I have no idea what you mean by a "scabby" appearance about the eyes—may be a case of ringworm. If so, a thorough cleaning and disinfection of the premises and repeatedly painting the affected places with tincture of iodine will effect a cure. The same treatment should also be applied to the cow, which probably has become infected by the calf. Still, to avoid mistakes and to be on the safe side, I advise you to have both animals, calf and cow, examined by the veterinarian of your experiment station.

Injured by a Fall.—R. G. Pink, Ga. When your horse fell through the small bridge and another horse on top of him, probably neither any bones were broken, nor the spinal cord seriously injured, but only the muscles of the back were severely strained and, perhaps, bruised, which would account for every symptom given in your inquiry. If such is the case a strict rest for a sufficient length of time, uninterrupted by any work or exercise, maybe for a couple of months, constitutes the remedy. If the rest given had been longer and not been interrupted by work, which, as you say at once caused lameness again, the horse might have been well by this time.

A Coughing Cow.—M. A. McK., Memphis, Mo. There is a strong suspicion that your milk-cow, of which you say "that she has a cough and a kind of moving or working in her sides" (probably a heaving motion of the flanks at each respiration), is suffering from tuberculosis, notwithstanding that she is in good condition. At any rate, if she remains that way after she has calved (you say she has to calve in four weeks), I would advise you to have her examined by a competent veterinarian, or have her subjected to the tuberculin test, because tuberculosis, especially in milk-cows, is a disease about the diagnosis of which there must be absolute certainty. I cannot give you any information in regard to the sore on the hip-bone of the other cow.

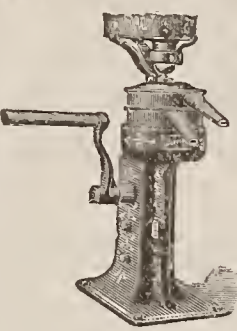
"Knuckles" Over.—M. J. S., Wampum, Pa. What you describe is probably the result of a relaxation of the ligaments of the pastern-joint, caused, perhaps, by an overburdening of the flexor tendons and the posterior ligament due to defective shoeing, too low quarters and too long a toe. Overwork, too rapid growth and insufficient strength also may have something to do with it. My advice would be to shorten the toe, to raise the quarters and thus to throw more weight upon the bones, and thereby to relieve the tendons and ligaments; further, to exempt the animal, until sufficiently strong, from any hard or tiring work, and to feed the same liberally with good and nutritious food, particularly with good oats and good hay. It may also be advisable to give some more support to the shaky pasterns by means of judiciously applied bandages.

Tapeworms.—J. L., Sugar Hill, N.Y. Your dogs have tapeworms, but it does not proceed from your meager description what kind: Taenia coenurus, T. marginata, T. serrata or T. cucurbitina. The larvae of the first are the cyst-worms in the brain, etc., of sheep, Coenurus cerebralis; those of the second, which is a very large tapeworm, occur on the serous membranes of the intestines, the urinary and sexual organs, on the mesenterium, the peritoneum and the pulmonary and costal pleuras of ruminating animals; those of the third, known as Cysticerci pisiformes, are rather frequent in the liver, lungs and abdominal serous membranes of hares and rabbits, and those of the last-named are said to be found in the dog-louse, Trichodectes canis, and are very small. Show the proglottides, or "worms," with the "queer undulating movement" seeming to increase or diminish their diameter at will, and of which you cannot tell which end their head is on" (because there is none), to a veterinarian, and he will tell you what kind of tapeworm you have to deal with, and prescribe the proper treatment and prevention.

Black-leg.—J. P. S., Raphine, Va. Black-leg, or symptomatic anthrax, is an exceedingly fatal disease caused by a micro-organism, a bacillus, which is known as the bacillus of symptomatic anthrax, and is characteristic in so far as it gets in its work of destruction, not in the circulating blood, but in the connective tissue beneath the skin and between the muscles. It is a facultative parasite and probably enters the animal organism through small sores or lesions. The disease principally attacks calves and yearlings, and very seldom any cattle over three years old. A treatment of an already diseased animal is practically useless. The prevention consists in keeping all cattle less than two or three years old away from such places in which the disease is known to originate, or in which the bacilli or their spores are existing; or where this cannot be done, in subjecting the susceptible animals to a protective inoculation made with a small quantity of the virus directly into a vein. If, however, in performing the operation the least quantity of virus should get into the connective tissue, the disease, instead of being prevented, is apt to be produced. The operation, therefore, should be performed only by a competent veterinarian, and by nobody else. The virus can be obtained from the "Pasteur Institute" in New York and Chicago, with directions how to use it.

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Our Farm.

BEES—OBSERVATIONS IN THE FIELD.

DURING the hot days in September and October honey-bees sometimes become troublesome in the vineyards. As the flora in our latitude then cease to yield honey, our industrious workers will gather up the juices of many fruits, when such are bruised or injured in other ways. Some vineyardists, when they find their grape-clusters covered by bees, imagine that the bees are destroying grapes; however, this has long been known not to be so. Wasps and birds of various kinds make the incision, and when the juice begins to ooze out the honey-bees make their appearance and suck the pulp dry. They really benefit the vineyardist instead of doing him harm. A bruised berry inside of a cluster of grapes has no value and may even spoil other berries next to it; here the bees come in and prevent further damage.

For a number of years I noticed that the ripening clusters of Delaware grapes, which grow on the vine-trellised to the outside of my honey-house, were damaged quite a good deal. Over the tops of the clusters almost every berry had a three-cornered hole cut into it. Of course, my bees soon found the mutilated berries and made short work with them during favorable weather. After watching closely I at last disclosed that field-mice did the mischief. I can now tell, simply from the shape of the incision, whether the injury was done by a mouse or not.

Honey-bees will work on apple-pomace. The juice they extract and store in the combs is very unwholesome food, and often detrimental in its effect on the bees during the winter. But did you ever notice a bee cut into a sound apple, even a sweet one? They don't do it. Neither do they cut sound grapes, peaches or pears.

Last season aphides, or plant-lice, did us some damage. At one time our plum, cherry and peach trees appeared to be almost ruined. The first indication I had of the presence of lice was when I was cultivating my Japan plum orchard. I keep about one hundred and fifty swarms of bees, and there are many days when I am among them from morning until night, and the humming and buzzing sounds in my ears, even when I am asleep. I dream about it. But when I was at work in my orchard this humming was not imagination. Bees were there on every plum-twig, and when I examined I found my bees feasting on the secretion of plant-lice, covering leaves and stems, ordinarily called "honey-dew."

Nearly all the new shoots of the plums were literally covered with aphides. Black ants were traveling up and down the trunks of the trees, and getting their share of the sweet substance. For some time I was inclined to believe my plum orchard would be seriously injured. However, I applied kerosene emulsion several times, and the pest disappeared. This year I shall watch closer, and as soon as I detect the first sign of lice I shall spray.

The eminent naturalist and bee specialist, Vogel, of Germany, once said "that he had known honey-bees to cut holes through the long flowering tubes of the red clover near the base, to get the nectar." Vogel observed that other insects cut these holes at first. The bees in search of honey found them, and after awhile learned to cut holes themselves. A tall weed grows around our yards and in many waste places, called "touch-me-not," on account of the seed-pods automatically springing open at a slight touch and scattering its seeds. Its blossom has a tube so narrow and long that the bees cannot reach down to where the nectar is secreted; but they extract it through a perforation near the base. I have not yet been able to find what insect makes these perforations, though I have watched long and often.

Don't honey-bees work on red clover? I have often observed them doing this. Last year when buckwheat yielded so little honey, they just swarmed over the blossoms of the second crop of red clover. They were gathering the greenish-looking pollen; but the amount of honey gathered must have been insignificant, for it did not show in the combs.

F. GREINER.

CLOVER-SEEDING.

Sowing clover-seed requires more skill than simply looking in the almanac to be sure the sign is in some particular place. Experience is the best guide. In Southern

Michigan some farmers sow just as early in March as they can.

Sometimes such seeding will prosper and get a start that would have been difficult to have obtained under any other conditions. Then again, not a few sow their seed later, waiting till the soil becomes settled so that a horse can be used on some light implement to run over the field and cover the seed. This has proven the most successful way of seeding on sandy soil.

Clay soil requires different methods. Our farm is mostly clay, and after five years of experience in clover-seeding in the spring without a single failure I am not afraid to give my experience to the public.

In the first place, I never could see the benefit of sowing such valuable seed before there were any signs of warm weather any more than I could of making garden when the snow was on the ground. One thing is certain: seed will not germinate until the sun's rays penetrate the soil and starts vegetation. And if it does happen to be an early spring, so much so that clover-seed sprouts, and then a cold wave comes, the germ will freeze and one's seed is lost. At least that has been the experience of many neighbors on clay soil. Clay soil will honeycomb nearly every night the first of April in this latitude, and at that season of the year there is little danger of a freeze after the seed has started to develop.

The past five years we have sown our seed on or before the fifth of April, and as I have said, never lost a seeding. We would have sown any time after the last of March, but the wind prevented.

ELIAS F. BROWN.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM TENNESSEE.—The climate of Fayette county, Tennessee, is very mild—cool in summer and delightful in winter. Lands are very cheap, good farms selling at from \$8 to \$25 an acre. There are many northern people here. All crops, such as cotton, corn, oats, wheat and potatoes, do well. This is a fine fruit country. The southern people are kind and welcome the northern man. H. S. S. Somerville, Tenn.

FROM CALIFORNIA.—Beautiful Etiwanda is situated near the foot-hills on the south side of the San Bernardino range of mountains. Its elevation is 1,300 feet above sea-level. Pure mountain water is piped to every ten-acre lot. Etiwanda has a southerly slope, which makes irrigation a pleasure. It is in a practically frostless belt, well adapted to all citrus fruits, especially oranges and lemons. It is also noted for its fine quality of raisins. By a few minutes' ride in the cars we can be in any one of the following cities: Los Angeles, Pomona, Ontario, Riverside, Redlands or San Bernardino. J. A. J. Etiwanda, Cal.

FROM MISSOURI.—I have been an interested reader of FARM AND FIRESIDE for over twenty years, and have learned many lessons in practical farming by reading the articles written by practical farmers. In the February 1st number, the article, "A year's work on my farm of fourteen acres," is a good illustration of farming here in Southeastern Missouri. Strawberries, peaches and apples are our paying crops. The climate is especially adapted to these three fruits. Strawberries commence to ripen here about the time those at my old home in Ohio are in blossom. Peaches commence to ripen the first of July and, with many varieties, continue until frost. They are very large and delicious. Apples mature here earlier than in the North, so they do not keep so long, but the quality is good. Farmers that have small orchards are now selling apples at a good price. Nearly all other fruits do exceedingly well. This is the country for flowers of every kind and color, both wild and cultivated. Nature in her wild, luxuriant beauty is found here in our deep mountain gorges and rocky, swift-flowing rivers. E. F. R. West Plains, Mo.

FROM NORTH CAROLINA.—I was raised in the blue-grass region of Kentucky, and came to this state five years ago. We are sixty miles east of the Blue Ridge, and two hundred miles from the coast, in the county of Iredell. Statesville, the county-seat, has a population of about 3,000. The land in this county lies well, though hilly in some places. The soil is thin, but produces well when fertilized. Corn, wheat, cotton and tobacco are the main products. Vegetables and fruits do well. Clover and orchard-grass do fairly well. The climate is mild and healthful. This country has a variety of minerals. Land is worth from \$3 to \$20 an acre. J. M. H. Harmony, N. C.

The J. W. Miller Co., Freeport, Ill., are having an immense trade in fowls and eggs this season. Their export trade has reached extensive proportions. Their stock is of the highest grade—all the valuable breeds being represented. They are also proprietors of the Freeport Nurseries.

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Our Farm.

PRIMITIVE AGRICULTURE.

THE builders of a new country are of necessity agricultural in their pursuits and tendencies, and the products they wrest from the desolate barrenness of the land give life to new industries that form the business fabric and social sustenance of a nation. In the primeval forests they toil endlessly against unfavorable conditions that either warp and destroy life or develop character and sturdiness; the fields, reclaimed from watery wastes and the wildness of untamed nature, respond sulkily to their repeated efforts, and barely return sufficient crops to pay for all the back-breaking, heart-rending labor; and the very meadow-lands and prairies seem to grudge the pioneers a living, as though they considered them interlopers come to rob them of their pristine virginity. Underneath the broiling summer sun that dries and parches the scanty vegetation that they have nourished into sickly growth, and in the teeth of wintry storms and icy blasts that freeze and congeal the blood of the body, they work out the destiny of a new nation, imparting vigor and determination or weakness and imbecility to future generations, according to whether they conquer their environments or permit themselves to be mastered by them. —Lippincott's.

WEEDS.

No doubt nine tenths of my brother farmers, at first thought, would say that tares, or weeds, are not only worthless, but a curse to agriculture. But stop and think for a moment. Do you remember of ever having plowed under a heavy crop of weeds and putting the land in wheat, or an old fence row matted with dock, plantain, lionweed, etc., and planting it in corn, and do you remember the results?

My experience is that, in such cases, the weeds have proved a blessing rather than a curse. However, I do not advise growing weeds as a crop, or together with a crop, but to use all care and energy in trying to turn the weed-crop to profit. The last two years have been remarkable for heavy growths of weeds in this section (central Indiana). Owing to our careless methods of putting in a crop without first thoroughly cultivating the ground and thus destroying the weeds and sprouting seeds, we may expect to find our clover-fields well set with weeds the coming spring. If so, let clover and weeds grow together until the latter part of June, then plow all under. Kill out the young weeds by successive harrowing, or cultivation, before seeding-time. The result will be a fine, clean, solid seed-bed, with a prospect of a bounteous crop of wheat the following season. AMOS K. FLORA.

A CHEAP POWER.

A cheap motor may be made by taking an old buggy or wagon wheel, and pivoting it on a suitable base with an old axle stub. Set in the box-pin so it turns freely in a horizontal direction. Lay and fasten a platform of boards on the wheel, making a circular table. Nail step-cleats on platform. Make a stall or tying-place on one side where a goat, sheep or dog may be tied. Under the platform at this point adjust a friction-roller and tumbling-rod, so that when the tread-wheel platform is suitably tilted it will revolve as the animal walks and cause the friction-roller to revolve and carry motion to the tumbling-rod and machinery geared to it.

This power was in common use sixty years ago in Yankeeedom, to turn lathes and small wood-working machines at country cross-roads shops.

E. HOLLENBECK.

DRAINING WHEAT-FIELDS.

Where fields are not tiled and are too wet for natural drainage, it will pay to plow furrows to provide surface-drainage. Every wheat-grower knows that if water is allowed to stand upon the ground in the fall, the crop will not only be directly injured thereby, but will also be liable to be severely damaged by winter killing. A heavy rain will do but little damage to a wheat-field, if provision is made for the prompt removal of all surplus water. A moderate rainfall upon undrained land which is already too wet will injure many of the plants and largely reduce the yield of the crop. Although good, thorough drainage with tiles is much better than any makeshift which can be invented, it is much better to adopt the above plan than none at all. IRA GRABER.

WIDE AND NARROW TIRES.

Numerous tests of the draft of wide and narrow tired wagons have been made at this station during the past two years, on macadam, gravel and dirt roads in all conditions, and on meadows, pastures and plowed fields, both wet and dry. Contrary to public expectation, in a large majority of cases the draft was materially less when tires six inches in width were used than when the tests were made with tires of standard width—one and one half inches. The following is a summary of the results:

1. On macadam street, as an average of the two trials made, a load of 2,518 pounds could have been hauled on the broad tires with the same draft that a load of 2,000 pounds required on the narrow tires.

2. Gravel road. In all conditions of the gravel road, except wet and sloppy on top, the draft of the broad-tired wagon was very much less than that of the narrow-tired wagon. Averaging the six trials, a load of 2,482 pounds could be hauled on the broad tires with the same draft required for a load of 2,000 pounds on the narrow tires.

3. Dirt roads. (a) When dry, hard and free from ruts and dust, 2,530 pounds could have been hauled on the broad tires with the same draft required for 2,000 pounds on the narrow tires. (b) When the surface was covered with two or three inches of very dry, loose dust, the results were unfavorable to the broad tire. The dust on the road in each of these trials was unusually deep. (c) On clay road, muddy and sticky on the surface and firm underneath, the results were uniformly unfavorable to the broad tires. (d) On clay road, with mud deep, and drying on top, or dry on top and spongy underneath, a large number of tests showed uniformly favorable to the broad tire. In this condition of road the broad tires show to their greatest advantage. As the road dries and becomes firmer, the difference between the draft of the broad and narrow tires gradually diminishes until it reaches about twenty-five to thirty per cent on dry, hard, smooth dirt, gravel or macadam road, in favor of the broad tire. On the other hand, as the mud becomes softer and deeper, the difference between the draft of the two types of wagons rapidly diminishes until the condition is reached when the mud adheres to both sets of wheels; here the advantage of the broad tires ceases entirely, and the narrow tires pull materially lighter. (e) Clay road, surface dry, with deep ruts cut by the narrow tires in the ordinary use of the road. In every trial the first run of the broad tire over the narrow tire ruts has shown a materially increased draft when compared with that of the narrow tire run in its own rut. The second run of the broad tires in the same track where the rut is not deep completely eliminated this disadvantage, and showed a lighter draft for the broad tire than the narrow tire showed in the first run. Where the ruts were eight inches deep with rigid walls, three runs of the broad tire in its own track over the ruts were required to eliminate the disadvantage. Three runs of the broad tire over this track have in all cases been sufficient, however, to so improve the road surface that both the broad and narrow tired wagons passed over this road with less draft than the narrow tires did in the original ruts. In addition to the saving of draft, the road was made very much more comfortable and pleasant for the users of light vehicles and pleasure carriages by the few runs of the six-inch tire. Summing up all the tests on dirt roads, it appears that there are but three conditions on which the broad tires draw heavier than the narrow tires; namely, (1) when the road is sloppy, muddy or sticky on the surface and firm or hard underneath; (2) when the surface is covered with a very deep loose dust and hard underneath; (3) when the mud is very deep and so sticky that it adheres to the wheels of both kinds of wagons.

Through a majority of days in the year and at times when the dirt roads are most used, and when their use is most imperative, the broad-tired wagons pull materially lighter than the narrow-tired wagons.

4. A large number of tests on meadows, pastures, stubble-land, corn-ground and plowed ground in every condition, from dry, hard and firm to very wet and soft, show without a single exception a large difference in draft in favor of the broad tires. This difference ranged from seventeen to one hundred and twenty per cent.—Bulletin of Missouri Experiment Station.

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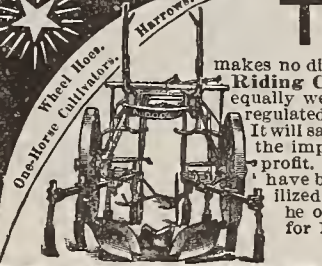
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buy a wagon that had everlasting wheels WOULD YOU DO IT? Wouldn't it be economy to do so? Well here's how. Buy a set of **Electric Steel Wheels**. They can't dry out and get loose; they CAN'T ROT OR BREAK DOWN. Don't make any difference what wagon you have we can fit it. Wheels of any height and any width of tire. May be the wheels on your wagon are good. If they are buy one and a high one. Send for catalogue, it is free.

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Our Fireside.

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All houses wherein men have lived and died
Are haunted houses. Through the open doors
The harmless phantoms on their errands glide
With feet that make no sound upon the floors.
We meet them at the doorway, on the stairs,
Along the passages they come and go,
Impalpable impressions on the air,
A sense of something moving to and fro.

There are more guests at the table than the hosts
Invited; the illuminated hall
Is thronged with quiet, inoffensive ghosts,
As silent as the pictures on the wall.
The stranger at my fireside cannot see
The forms I see, nor hear the sounds I hear;
He hnt perceives what is, while unto me
All that has been is visible and clear.

We have no title-deeds to house or lands;
Owners and occupants of earlier dates
From graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands,
And hold in mortmain still their old estates.
The spirit-world around this world of sense
Floats like an atmosphere, and everywhere
Wafts through these earthly mists and vapors dense
A vital breath of more ethereal air.

Our little lives are kept in equipoise
By opposite attractions and desires;
The struggle of the instinct that enjoys,
And the more noble instinct that aspires.
These perturbations, this perpetual jar
Of earthly wants and aspirations high,
Come from the influence of an unseen star,
An undiscovered planet in our sky.

And as the moon from some dark gate of cloud
Throws o'er the sea a floating bridge of light,
Across whose trembling planks our fancies crowd
Into the realm of mystery and night—
So from the world of spirits there descends
A bridge of light, connecting it with this,
O'er whose unsteady floor, that sways and heeds,
Wander our thoughts above the dark abyss.
—Henry W. Longfellow.

THE BRIDE OF THE KLONDIKE

BY LIDIA HOYT FARMER.

Author of "The Doom of the Holy City," "Aunt Belinda's Points of View," "A Short History of the French Revolution," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER III.

THE next day they were married in the village church.

Edith Elwood was an orphan, and had lived with her aunt, her only relative. The old spinster thought Edith and Curtis bereft of their sober senses to plan and execute such an extraordinary wedding trip as they proposed. But the girl was of age, and the spinster was one of those timid, yielding sort; and besides, brides and grooms usually are privileged to select the routes for their wedding journeys without outside meddling. So it came to pass that this bride and groom set off for Juneau, and there took the boat for Dyea, the head of navigation, on their way to the Arctic Eldorado, in Alaska, where was the coveted gold.

They had little capital between them, for they were both poor in cash, but rich in Cupid's smiles, and prodigal in lavishing their treasures of youth, health and happiness.

After reaching the limit of navigation they commenced their long tramp behind a team of dogs bearing on a sledge their tent, provisions and necessary stores. Besides the necessary provision on the sledge, each carried an additional burden on their backs, making the journey all the more tiresome.

Very different from her dainty pale pink gown was the traveling garb of this bride on her wedding journey amid Alaskan wilds. She wore hunting-trousers and coat of seal-skin, with the fur inside. Her short skirts did not conceal her fur leggings and rubber boots, over which she wore Indian moccasins. Her head was covered with a hood of bear-skin, and over her shoulders was thrown a heavy fur blanket. The groom was in similar fur garments. Fifteen miles a day this heroic bride trudged by her husband's side through the weary wilderness of forest, ice and snow, which lay between the head of navigation and the mining-camp on Forty-mile creek, which they at last reached, three months after they were married. Such was their novel wedding trip.

Klondike was still some distance beyond, and at first they thought that the claims in the nearer camp would pay them to stop there. But soon after their arrival at Forty-mile creek, a miner brought marvelous news to the camp of the fabulous strikes beyond in Klondike.

Benton rushed into his wife's tent to tell her the latest news. "The man says, Edith, that nuggets of gold have been picked up there as big as a man's fist, and he even declares some were as large as a man's head; but he was probably a little wild about that, I reckon."

"Well, that would look a good deal like finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, Curtis," said his wife, laughing.

"I've found my pot of gold in your true love, dearest," she added, with devotion in her eyes, and a smile upon her lips. "But

Aladdin's lamp is a sort of handy thing to have about the house, in the shape of gold nuggets and plenty of gold-dust to order; and love with diamonds, you know—" she said, saucily, flashing her dark eyes into his till they shone like two black diamonds of the first water.

"I've got my diamonds," he interjected, before she could finish her sentence; "my two black diamonds, more brilliant than the great Kohinoor!" he exclaimed, as he bent her lovely head backward and imprinted a kiss upon each eyelid; "and my priceless rubies, too!" he added, saluting her rosy month with a sweep of his brown mustache.

When she recovered breath, she cried:

"Oh, you dear old heart!"

"Give me one good hug, then," he chimed in, as he spread forth his arms to clasp her close.

"Oh, no, not now, you dear old fur-clad Brin! I want to talk business. As I was saying, when you interrupted me with all your nonsense. As you declare you have already got diamonds and rubies, perhaps you don't hanker after more jewels; but I am a woman, you know, and I have always yearned just a little—not enough to make it a wish—you old generous dear!" she added, as she detected a shade on his face, as the thought crossed his fond heart, how he longed to bestow the wealth of the Indies upon his beloved bride. "I don't long for anything," she continued; "only if you could find nuggets; diamonds may be becoming to my style of beauty, don't you think? So I say, as we

hearth, for hundreds of dollars must be expended to obtain a few thousand feet of it. Rare were the viands set before her on crystal table of dazzling ice; for potatoes were one dollar a pound, and bacon nearly as much, but Indian graves became her chief stewards, and the royal moose and caribou were brought by them to grace her forest board. Never was nectar more delicious than the sparkling ice-goblet, brought by her adoring knight from the glacier spring, and the aurora borealis furnished the gorgeous illumination for her nightly suppers, as they raised to their lips the rainbow-tinted crystal cups gemmed with icicles, and pledged their love to each other.

Thus they sought for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. But even such Aladdin's feasts have their prosaic side.

Side by side they worked for weary weeks, in search of the gleaming particles in the yellow sand which should give them the pot of gold.

After a hard day's work in the freezing November air, on one of their claims on the Eldorado creek, a branch of the Bonanza, which empties into the Klondike, about two miles above the camp, called Dawson City, they gathered together the frozen lumps of earth and filled the sacks to take them to their hut and light the costly fire which was required to melt the frozen earth, that they might see if any particles of the coveted gold would reward their labor. For one month they had been working and had not yet reached pay-sand. As they trudged back to



THEY COMMENCED THEIR LONG TRAMP BEHIND A TEAM OF DOGS.

have come this far, let us hunt for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

"You shall come, dear, if I catch the rainbow," cried Curtis; "but meanwhile, stay here in this camp. I must be on the road to that valley of the Klondike before sunrise, to beat the men who are starting on the trail, so I may come in for a good claim before they are all gobbled up."

So that bride and groom set to work in good earnest to prepare his pack; and before the dawn lightened the eastern sky Curtis was on the road on the fifty-mile tramp before him. Night and day he toiled without stopping, and in two days he had reached the famous field where he was to stake the claims that would bring to him the coveted gold.

Curtis Benton staked several claims and also traded for shares in other promising claims, and then set to work to build a log hut, so that he might bring his wife to that frozen region. After a rude cabin was completed he went back to the camp where he had left his wife.

One day he suddenly entered her tent, and exclaimed, as he caught her to his heart in a fond greeting:

"I've caught sight of the rainbow, Edith! We'll follow it up together till we find the pot of gold. I've a rude hut built for you, and the weather is freezing, but—"

"A faint heart never won a fair lady," you old dear, and a faint-hearted lady never was worth the winning," she added; "so I'll prove I'm worth your seeking, even if we don't find the pot of gold."

Wrapped in her furs, that brave bride, defiant of cold or of hardships, while she was cheered by the comforting light and warmth of her husband's love, trudged at his side, day by day, over the frozen path, and took possession of the ice-bound hut, proud as a lady of old in her new palatial palace.

The thermometer dropped to forty degrees below zero. Snow was the floor of her cabin, but it was white as royal ermine. Costly, indeed, was the precious fire-wood laid on her

their cabin, hungry and footsore, Curtis suddenly exclaimed, with a tone of regret in his voice:

"Edith, dear, what if I've brought you into all this privation for nothing after all. This cold is stinging, dear girl! I wish I could transport you to the sunny clime of flower-blooming California. I fear I was a demented visionary to consent to bring you up here."

Edith had been walking with weary step, but she quickly assumed an alert manner, and swung into her old swinging gait, as she said, laughing:

"Didn't I make you come, you dear old boy? You see it was just my woman's vanity to deck myself with diamonds."

"I know better than that, Edith, you noble girl! You were determined not to stand in my way of getting a fortune."

"Well, let's hurry up and thaw out this last load; who knows what it will bring forth!" she rejoined, with such a cheery tone that all thoughts of the privations and hardships they had gone through with vanished.

Reaching the hut, they lighted a little of the precious fuel, which was worth its weight in gold; and Curtis looked up with a rueful face, and said, half jokingly:

"We're sort of burning up gold, dear girl, if we don't dig gold!"

"Ah, well, that's having gold to burn, don't you see?" laughed Edith, half hysterically. "It is only millionaires who can afford to burn gold, you know."

"What will you bet there is not gold in

this pan of earth?" asked Curtis, as he lifted the thawed-out sand from the fire-logs and surveyed it critically.

"My two black eyes! They are diamonds, you say!" retorted Edith.

"Oh, those are mine already!" cried Curtis. "You can't bet away my property, you know!"

"Well, I will bet you the tip end of that untrimmed mustache—that is mine, you know!"

"Yes, that's your property, I'll admit."

"Well, black eyes to brown mustache—there is gold, say I," cried Edith. "I have a presentment that we have caught up with the rainbow at last."

Then they set to work to test that momentous pan of earth. He was to trim his mustache if there was no gold; she—well, she was so sure there was gold that she never stopped to say what she was to do with her two black diamonds if he won the bet.

"There, I knew it," cried Edith, as the little gold particles flashed into light. "Oh, my! Why, Curtis, how much is that pile of gold-dust worth?" she breathlessly inquired, as the pan was finished, leaving a glittering pile of gold-dust on the bit of sackling they had spread over the ice table.

"As near as I can judge, my beloved girl!" exclaimed Curtis, with exultant face and triumphant voice, "there are over five hundred dollars in this day's digging."

"Why, we're rich already, Curtis!" cried Edith, joyously, with flushed cheeks and flashing eyes.

"Yes, rich already, you brave little bride!" said Curtis, folding her to his heart. "If it had not been for your courageous resolve, I would probably have stayed and drudged out an existence on the poor pay of a fruit-farm in California. I would never have dared to suggest such a wild thing as bringing you to this frozen wilderness, and I could never have left you behind. So thanks to you, my princess, for planning such a glorious wedding trip."

"No matter for this cold now, Curtis, dear! We shall soon be able to afford to burn more of this worth-its-weight-in-gold fuel, if we pan out a few more days like this one."

"Why, my plucky little bride, there is simply heaps of that same pay-dirt in the claim we were working to-day, and I have others which I am sure will turn out equally rich."

"Let's celebrate becoming incipient millionaires by being extravagant enough to burn up this entire log of costly fuel, and not let this pleasant fire die out this long cold night."

"Why, Edith dear, you have suffered with the cold then, and yet you have never complained, even when your lips were blue with the icy air and your teeth chattering like icicle castanets?"

"Well, one would think you never had the least bit of a shiver yourself, with the thermometer down to seventy below," laughed Edith, hovering with delight over the rare comfort of a blazing wood fire.

Then the nightly illumination of the gorgeous aurora borealis lighted the heavens and the ice furniture reflected the glowing tints, as they stood at the open door a moment to gaze upon the nightly wonder, lingering a little longer than usual to watch the glory scene, because they remembered that the luxury of a fire would warm their chilled fingers, instead of creeping into their fur-bag bed laid upon pine boughs, with chattering teeth and benumbed limbs, as they had so often done, before the certainty that they had found their pot of gold made them extravagant enough to keep up a fire after the costly log had burned out, which had been lighted to thaw out their daily sack of frozen diggings.

But treacherous eyes had caught a glimpse of the glittering pile of gold-dust; for an Indian was crouching beneath the window, and his covetous sight gloated over the rich treasure shining on the ice table, as the light of the aurora borealis illumined the cabin, while the owners were standing unconscious of any lurking foe.

"Umph!" grunted the Indian, under his breath. "Heap pretty white squaw!—Heap pile of yellow sand!—Tomahawk!—Scalp white tenderfoot!—Steal white squaw and yellow sand!—Keep squaw for wigwam!—Trade yellow sand in camp for fire water and bacon!—Heap good night's work!—Umph!—Hide till the sky grows dark!"

During the hour of darkness between the fading of the northern lights and the dawn of day, Edith was aroused from a heavy sleep by a stealthy step in the cabin.

Waiting for a moment to perceive more clearly the cause of the unusual sound, she was terrified to behold in the dim light of dawn a gleaming tomahawk swinging over the head of her sleeping husband.

"Curtis!" she screamed, at the same time grasping the arm swinging the deadly hatchet.

Benton awoke and instantly drew forth his pistol, which he always kept under his fur pillow.

The Indian, having already experienced the potency of the white man's firearms, wrenched his arm from Edith's grasp, and slinking back in the shadow, and feigning friendliness, he muttered: "Salagaya! Brave bring moose to white man's wigwam!"

"You infernal scoundrel!" cried Curtis,



"WELL, EDITH, PUT ON YOUR FLOWER-GARDEN HAT."

springing up, suspicious of the red man's treachery, though he had not seen the menacing tomahawk, which the Indian now held behind his back; yet, deeming it politic to get rid of him without trouble, Curtis continued: "We don't trade at this time of night! If I ever catch you around here again I'll—"

And he fired his pistol after the retreating Indian, though it was aimed so as to scare and not injure the intruder, for Curtis knew that a dead Indian might make trouble for him with the tribe hereafter.

"Has that ugly fellow ever been prowling around here before, Edith?"

"I recognized him as that villainous-looking Indian I noticed skulking in the edge of the woods that day I did not go with you to the claims. I had ventured to go to pick up a few chips in the pine grove where you had cut down that tree for our fire-log. But don't fear for me; I carry my trusty little revolver, you know, and even in my mountain home in California I prided myself on being a good shot. I must confess, however, I was startled to awake and see that tomahawk swinging around your head. I grabbed the villain, but he wrenched away his arm as you awoke."

"Oh, Edith, cold and hunger are not the only dangers which threaten you in this wild region. I tremble to think what might befall you with such treacherous foes around if I were not by to protect you. As soon as we can gather a few sacks of this gold-dust I shall take you back to civilization, where you can live in comfort and safety. I can tramp back and forth between our pot of gold and our California flower-garden, and bring you from time to time enough of the shining sand to deck my queen-wife with diamonds, and robe her in luxuriant satins."

"Oh, you dear, chivalrous knight! You have already rescued me from iceberg monsters and treacherous Indians, as I prophesied you would. But if Indians will keep their deadly tomahawks off from your dear head, I am not afraid of their stealing me, don't you fear. White squaw knows a thing or two about firearms, and a treacherous Indian can't scare a girl whose grandfather lost his life in fighting for his country."

CHAPTER IV.

Eight months of hard work brought them sacks of gold-dust worth over two hundred thousand dollars. Leaving their claims in the hands of trusty miners, who were to work them and pile up in sacks the pay-earth, until Curtis should return to sum up his additional wealth, this bride and groom, whose honeymoon had lasted for over a year, amidst such weird, grand and perilous surroundings, returned to their Californian home.

In the finest hotel in San Francisco they took a handsome suite of rooms, and Edith could now wear diamonds as bright as her flashing eyes; and Curtis, with well-trimmed mustache, laughingly declared:

"Little woman, you won your bet. The mustache is yours. Shall the barber shave it off that you may preserve it as a memento in a box of gold?"

"My box of gold is your handsome face, Curtis, you old dear! Let the prize I won remain to grace my brave knight's manly beauty. I'm glad you're handsome, Curtis, and the mustache gives just the touch of manliness which relieves your face from too perfect beauty, which might otherwise lose strength. But how do you like my Paris gown? At least the San Francisco modiste said it was from Paris; and is my flower-garden hat quite as becoming as my bear-skin hood? Really, you are too dandified in your stylish suit. I seem to have lost my handsome brigand knight in his picturesque sealskins."

"Well, Edith, put on your flower-garden hat, and we will ride down to the train and take a trip to the old fruit-farm."

"Oh, we will buy it, you mean," she cried, with delight. "Well, you may buy the land, but mark you. I will build the house with my own hard-earned money, which I myself dug out from our Alaska claim. I have over ten thousand dollars, you know, of that gold-dust, all taken out by my own feminine hands—fair, I can call them no longer; but almond flour and rose glycerine can whiten them enough for a few diamond rings, perhaps!"

So their wedding trip was over, but their honeymoon they claimed should last their lifetime.

THE END.

THE WORLD'S WASHER.

Don't forget the good wife when you are investigating the question of labor-saving machinery. She needs the help to lighten labor, to quicken work, as much as you do. When you do investigate, don't forget a washing-machine, one of the greatest labor savers in the kitchen, and one which effectually dispels the cerulean tint of blue Monday in the average household. When making such an investigation send to C. E. Ross, 10 Clean St., Lincoln, Ill. (mentioning the FARM AND FIRESIDE), for a descriptive circular. The World's Washer is sent on trial and no money required until it proves itself perfectly satisfactory.

HOP HOLLOW.

BY HATTIE WHITNEY.

TALK o' Jacob a-sellin' his birthright for a mess o' pottage! He couldn't ekil you, Sam Hopkins, a-goin' an' a-huyin' a mess o' pottage with ever' pore, mizable dollar you could scratch an' rake up ag'inst the mortgage on the only sort o' home you've got to put yer head in was jew."

Sam Hopkins' shrill little wife, stirring up coru-pone at the table by the window, heat and whisked the yellow batter so vigorously, in her vexation, that the lightness of the prospective pone was as good as guaranteed.

Honest, shiftless Sam Hopkins, sitting in his shirt-sleeves on the rough wash-bench just outside the kitchen door, smiled a half apologetic, half indulgent smile through the clouds of smoke that curled up from his cob-pipe.

"Hit ain't no mess o' pottage, Melissy; hit's a right smart track o' lan'—"

"Track o' nothin'," interrupted Melissy, contemptuously; "the rockiest end of a ole ball glade taperin' down into a ole swamp holler, with nothin' but snaggly blackjacks an' bresh a-growin' from one eend to 'tother."

"A right smart track o' lan'," proceeded Sam, having waited patiently for Melissy to relieve her mind; "mighty fine calf-lot whenever'n I'd got it fenced, er else I could of sole' it 'long nex' sprain' fer a heap more'n what I give. But still—what I was a-goin' to say, I wouldn't a tuck it ef I'd of knew Squire Overton wouldn't a hilt off about the mortgage till nex' year's crop o' wheat was rose."

"An' that's jest what you'd orto of knew," broke in Melissy, as she gave her batter a final spat with the iron spoon. "Yere we're a gittin' on t'wards cole weather an' like to be run out'n the house whenever'n the ole Squire gits ready to say 'cut sticks,' 'u then what you reckon we're a-goin' to do, Sam Hopkins?"

"We got the holler," began Sam, trying in his lazy, easy-going fashion to see the bright side of a dark picture; "might go there an'—"

"Air we possums an' coons, er foxes, air you a'lowin', er yit, fowlds of the air?"

Melissy transfixed her optimistic lord with scorn in her small, fallow face, and exasperation in the very attitude of her angular, upright little figure. "Kin we go live in a ole stump, er a holler log, er up in the braiches of the trees?"

"Might build a cabin, ef the' was time."

Sam spoke as serenely as if Melissy's last outburst had been but a wifely compliment to his sound sense and judgment.

"Might do a heap o' things ef we had time an' brains enough," was Melissy's delicately sarcastic retort, as she proceeded with the slicing of the bacon for dinner. "But now yere's the Squire a-comin' down onto us 'fore the corn's shocked, er the pumpkins gathered, er the pickles made er nothin'—the orchud plum-full of Ben Davises, red as fire-coals, to be gathered, an' the apple-hutter 'n eider to be made, an' achshilly no eend o' things that has to be did, an' you know it, well as me."

Sam looked at the pretty sugar-maple that swept the kitchen eaves, its leaves turning a delicate pinky gold, which would soon deepen to blazing brilliance, ran his fingers through his grizzly forelock, and sighed, his cheery spirits a trifle dampened by his wife's persistent dwelling upon the dark side of circumstances.

"Ef the' was airy way to git them two hundred dollars back—an' I'll swear I thought the Holler was cheap at two hundred—"

He found his breath choked off with extreme suddenness by two plump, pink arms that folded around his neck in a suffocating embrace, while a shower of gleaming curls flew into his face, making him wink both eyes in comic dismay.

"Quit a-lookin' so grumpy, daddy," ordered a voice as fresh and sweet as pure air, healthy lungs and a cheerful disposition could make it, "you an' mammy, both. I know what it's all about, an' I'll go straight over to Mr. Sile Purslow's an' get it all back, ever' bit. Don't you reckon he'll give it up?"

"Spect he might, honey, fer you."

Sam looked at the graceful young Hebe who had released him from her energetic hug and now stood swinging her green gingham sun-bonnet by its frayed-out strings and smiling down at him with eyes as clear and unshadowed as a blue lake in summer-time, and his own countenance resumed its usual expression of untroubled serenity.

"There now, Lissy," he called to his wife, "hit'll be all right; Millie's a-goin' over atter dinner to git it all back."

"Ef she kin," muttered Melissy, darkly, shaking her skeptical little head over her dinner pots; "but 'pears to me like a ole goose kin git into a hole a heap easier'n what he kin git out."

In spite of her pessimistic views on the subject, however, Mrs. Melissy kept an anxious eye upon the long, white country road winding around the meadow, bordered with privet and witch-hazel, up which Millie had gone on her mission in the slumbrous light of the hazy-gold autumn afternoon, and even finally brought out her basket of carpet-rags to the porch where Sam was sitting in placid meditation, and began to tack the long strings together with brisk, jerky motions, as if she were a little wooden toy woman whose arms worked by means of wires run through the joints.

Sam smoked on meditatively, and Melissy sewed on jerkily, and the old yellow cat purred in the sunshine for some time before a firm, slender form, in brown calico, surmounted by a neat little white sunbonnet, came glancing in and out the shadows of the apple-trees, about whose feet the clover was deep and tangled.

"Yonder she comes, 'crost the orchud," said Sam, peering forward with slow but keen delight.

"An' ain't got no good news, I'll insure you," replied his small wet blauket of a wife, true to her colors.

There was certainly no sign of exultation visible in the peach-bloom face set in the fluted white frills of Millie's best sunbonnet.

"Well, honey?" Sam laid his pipe down for a moment, while Melissy held her carpet-rag ball suspended breathlessly. Millie hastened to relieve their anxiety without delay.

"He's mighty simple," was her sole preface, "says he'll take Hop Holler back mighty quick an' give back the two hundred dollars ef I'll take him along with 'em."

Sam leaned his head back against the log wall of the little cabin and laughed until the bench upon which he sat shook and rattled; but the anxiously eager look in Melissy's little fallow face deepened.

"An' I told him," went on Millie, "I didn't want to take him along with 'em, an' he said then Squire Overton might foreclose soon as he wanted, an' he wouldn't lift a finger to hinder. 'N then I cried a little, 'n then he said I could take to-day to study over it, an' needn't say yes er no till I'd thought of it good."

"An' hit'd be a mighty fine thing fer you an' us all, Mildred Lucretia, ef you was to," Mrs. Melissy's voice grew a trifle shriller than usual in her earnestness. "An' he ain't no ways bad-lookin' for a ole-like feller that's only jis' a leetle squinty-eyed an' crabbeddy-like. An' fur es that Joe Bates is consarned, hit's more'n a year sence he's showed up, an' a fireman ou a injine's no depidence no way, an'—"

Sam interrupted Melissy's rapid string of arguments with an expressive gesture.

"Don't ye go to argyin' an' influencin' of her, Melissy; I won't hev it," he said, in his mild, slow tones; "she kin study over it ef she pleases, an' when she gits t'ough a studdyn' she kin do es she plum pleases, an' she shill. I won't hev no argyin' an' influencin' of her."

And Melissy, who was wont to hader and henpeck shiftless, easy-going Sam systematically and as a matter of daily duty, yet when he did express a positive desire or intention, regarded it scrupulously (with that inconsistency supposed to be a feminine prerogative), said no more.

The dappled white clouds in the west had grown pink at their soft, fluffy edges, then gradually deepened to splendid rose-hued billows of a sea of glory that was tossing about the flaming sun-ship and floating him out of port. Mrs. Melissy Hopkins, approaching the kitchen from the direction of the barn-yard, with two tin buckets of milk, paid little heed to the glories of that wondrous departure. The mild peacefulness of the sunset time had fallen about the humble old farm-house; the home-like evening sounds that rose and fell musically in the autumn tranquility—the low of a cow at some neighboring barn-yard bars, the bleat of sheep; even the queer, prolonged note of an insect in the top of a tall tree seemed softened and made almost melancholy by some subtle property of the atmosphere.

Millie had gone across the broad, aster-edged meadow to bring the young turkeys home for the night. Sam Hopkins, at the corner of the kitchen, was cutting the evening's supply of stove-wood, pausing now and then to lean upon his ax handle and eye the young sugar-maple with a sort of philosophically regretful expression. He withdrew his gaze as his wife approached, and shifted around towards her.

"Lissy," he drawled, "Millie 'lows she couldn't marry Sile Purslow, not fer no consideration. She 'lows she's tried mighty hard fer to think she might git to kinder like him some time ef she married him, an' she jis' natcherly can't, an' she says ef the' weren't no Joe Bates at all hit'd be jis' the same, she'd hev him fer our sake ef she could, but bein' like hit is, she 'lows she can't. The' ain't no way to git shet of Hop Holler now, es I kin see, an' ef Squire Overton's boun' to foreclose, I reckon he'll hev to."

"An' it's ever' bit your fault, Sam Hopkins."

Melissy set her buckets upon the step, and herself upon the edge of the porch, hurling off her sunbonnet with a gesture of exasperation. Sam might successfully veto any attempt to argue or influence Millie into a distasteful marriage, but no earthly edict could prevent her making Sam suffer the consequences of her own disappointment at Millie's decision.

"Ever' bit—first place a-gittin' that ole mizable Hop Holler 'at wouldn't raise cockle-hurs, let alone black-eyed peas, an' that nobody else wouldn't have fer a free gift. Mess o' pottage—good law', a mess o' pottage weren't a circumstance. Makes my hair stan' plum up on eend to think how much better bargain Essau could make 'n what you kin; Essau'd cheat you right out 'n yer teeth ef he'd come along now. An' fur es Sile Purslow's consarned, you ner Mill needn't to neither one talk; ef it hadn't been fer Joe Bates, Millie wouldn't been so spity ag'in Sile, an' 'twas all your doin's, encouragin' Joe an' keepin' Millie thinkin' of him, an' I'd jis' love fer you to say what yearly good er count Joe is er ever was to us."

"Ye hedn't orto snurl up your nose at Joe Bates, Lissy," objected Sam, mildly. "Reckon

THE TURN OF LIFE

Is the most important period in a woman's existence. Owing to modern methods of living, not one woman in a thousand approaches this perfectly natural change without experiencing a train of very annoying and sometimes painful symptoms.

Those dreadful hot flashes, sending the blood surging to the heart until it seems ready to burst, and the faint feeling that follows, sometimes with chills, as if the heart were going to stop for good, are symptoms of a dangerous nervous trouble. Those hot flashes are just so many calls from nature for help. The nerves are crying out for assistance. The cry should be heeded in time. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was prepared to meet the needs of woman's system at this trying period of her life.

The Vegetable Compound is an invigorating strengthener of the female organism. It builds up the weakened nervous system and enables a woman to pass that grand change triumphantly.

It does not seem necessary for us to prove the honesty of our statements, but it is a pleasure to publish such grateful words as the following:

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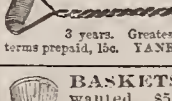


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he's a good fireman; some gals marries firemen on injines an' gits along peaceable."

"Peaceable!" Melissy's little sharp nose almost made a successful upward curve. "Reckon they do git along peaceable, 'cause they're most generally widders, or else ef their hushan' ain't plum killed jumpin' off a train er runnin' into another train, er blew up, er scalt with hot steam, he's shore to be smashed up a beap. Reckon you'd like fer Mill's hushan' to be done that-a-way, so's you could take beer of both of em, an' no place to put 'em 'ceptiu' of the Holler; ef they was good at livin' off'n rocks they might git along."

Throughout the mellow, purple-shadowed hour between the outgoing of the sun and the kindling of the mild autumnal stars, Melissy's tongue wagged on unwearied, until something occurred which in her experience was a phenomenon. I think no one could truthfully accuse Sam Hopkins of being a hasty, impatient or irritable man; but as there is scarce a lane so long it has no turn, so there is scarce a nature whose placidity is so deep it never becomes ruffled, and Sam's patience came to an end at last.

"Melissy," he said, in his usual drawling tone, "you're worsen'n a tarrapin—hope to die ef you ain't. Wisht I could go whur I wouldn't never hear yer tongue a-clackin' no more, an' shucks take the luck, that's jis' whur I'm a-goin'."

With one whack he fixed the ax tightly in the old oak stump beside the wood-pile, straightened the brim of his old flapping straw hat, and without further explanation set off across the yard, through the adjoining lot and over the fence into the road, and taking the direction of the town, followed it straight forward, without a backward glance. And Melissy, amazed almost beyond the use of her vocal organs, sat still, gazing after his retreating form with startled eyes and the one bewildered exclamation:

"Well, I'll declar'!"

As the shadows of the distance swallowed up Sam's broad figure completely, and each fleeing moment brought only a fuller realization of the full desperation of his deed and possible intents, to this very excitable Melissy, whose imagination fully equaled her temper; her next proceeding was to fly headlong to the firm and unalterably conviction that Sam was, to the best of his ability, heading straight for his doom in some dire form or other. And when Millie returned to the house after a long campaign in trailing, marshaling and securing a hundred or so young turkeys, she found a very miserable little woman weeping in the dusk, and wringing her hands in distress, which increased as the dusk melted to blackness, and crept on to deep, dark night, and he did not return.

Millie, who did not share her mother's alarm, tried vainly to reassure her.

"You jis' needn't to talk, Mill," wailed the little woman, wiping her eyes on her trim sun-bonnet cape, "he's went an' killed hisself right dead, er else he's went to the s'loon, whut he never done sence we married, an' ain't used to, and hit'd go right smack into his head, an' he'll tumble an' kill hisself, er git mauled in a fight, an' be fetched home 'long somers near twelve o'clock on a board. I know he will, an' oh, whut ever'll I do—pore Sam."

"Shucks, mammy," Millie responded, cheerfully. "'Twouldn't do him no good ner harm to go to the s'loon, 'cause he hadn't no money, ner none of the others wouldn't have, an' Peyton's too steengy to sell anything on credit. An' pappy ain't killed hisself neither; he wouldn't quit livin' fer a heap; an' besides, he wouldn't take the trouble."

"I know he would," returned Melissy, vehemently, "an' you hadn't orto slanderate yer pore pappy, Mildred Lucretia, makin' out like es ef he's lazy, when ever'body knows he's the smartest an' best an' sensiblist man the' eve' was. An' now he's dead er all mangled up—needn't to tell me he'd stay out o' bed this late ef uo'hiu' hedn't of happened to him."

"Well, mammy," said Millie, "tell you whut; I'll take an' go along up towards the station, an' keep on till I meet him er find out where he is; shall I?"

"Wisht you would, honey," answered her mother, springing eagerly to her feet, "an' I'd go 'long, too, but I reckon I better light up the fire an' hev hot water an' things ready, an' a smack of supper in case he ain't too furgone to eat a bite—an' ef he is, the' ain't no hope fer him—pore Sam."

And as Millie, wrapping a bit of red-checked woolen shawl about her head and shoulders, set forth upon her errand, Melissy, feeling the relief of action, went briskly about her task, forsaking it every five minutes to hustle to the door and gaze out anxiously into the soft, purple dark night, jeweled high overhead with the large, mellow autumnal stars that always look so sad when trouble is in the heart. And when finally the sound of voices approaching the house arose on the still, calm air, among which she could distinguish Sam's slow, soft drawing tones, in the sudden transition from suspense to certainty, that all was well, she broke into an ungrammatical and not remarkably lucid, but very sincere prayer of thanksgiving over the block of bacon.

Leisurely, and with all his usual deliberation of movement and placidity of countenance, Sam strolled into the kitchen, and was mildly astonished to see his erratic little better-half dart forward to meet him and fling herself headlong into his arms, with the affectionate fervor he might have looked for after an absence of years.

"Oh, Sam, honey—Sam, honey, you ain't dead after all," she chanted, in blissful wonder, gazing ecstatically up into his broad brown face, while Sam patted her reassuringly on the shoulder, and replied:

"Bless the world! Why, shucks, no, honey! An' yere's Joe Bates a-comin' with Millie, Lissy; look yonder!"

Whereupon Melissy released her prodigal and turned about beamingly to greet with characteristic vigor the frank-faced young man who had followed Sam into the kitchen, with Millie's little hand tucked under his arm, and who had won his welcome from Millie's mother by his fortunate association with the prodigal's return.

"An' now, folks," announced Sam, "I'm a goin' to tell ye a leetle somethin'. Lissy, let's you an' I set yere on the settle, an' Joe an' Millie kin set on that the' bainch, an' you kin all hyur. Land, Mill, ain't you 'sbamed to punch Joe away with yer elbow that-a-way? Let him set by you, an' quit a-titterin' tell I git th'ough whut I'm a-tellin'. See, I went right 'long down to Shingleville, 'thout knowin' exact'ly whut my objec' was, an' I run ag'in Joe, an' him an' I tuck a walk 'long roun' town, him a-tellin' me how't he'd been a-savin' up his money so's to come an' try'n git Mill soon's he'd got him enough to buy him a little place, an' how't he'd mighty nigh got enough now, an' hopin' Mill was free yit, an' 'ud hev him, an' me a-tellin' Joe 'bout Hop Holler an' Sile Purslow, an' us two talkin' over one thing another. An' then we went up to Peyton's hotel an' seen some fellers Joe knowed, 'n atter while I come out on the porch while Joe's still a-talkin' with 'em, an' sot down an' sot a spell, an' who should come poliu' 'long but Sile Purslow, an' wanted to know ef Mill'd made up her mind yit. I tole him Millie didn't keer about marryin' jest yit, an' ef she did, likely she'd hev Joe Bates; an' s'e, 'Well, bein' hit's you, Hopkins, reckon I'll let ye hev back them two hundred dollars, like Millie was a-wantin' me to do, an' me take Hop Holler back 'thout no conditions.'"

"Oh, goody, goody, daddy! Why didn't you tell us?" shrieked Millie, springing off her bench and frisking triumphantly about. But Melissy, who had been sitting steadily, regarding Sam with concentrated satisfaction, only remarked:

"Law, Sam, I am glad you ain't dead."

"Well, well," spoke Sam, not impatiently, but as one whose auditors are not behaving in precisely the expected manner, "I ain't nigh dead yit; an' Millie, you set down tell I git th'ough. Says I, 'I'm obleeged to ye, Mr. Purslow,' an' 'fore I could git out ar' other word, up comes Squire Overton, an' givin' Sile a nod, s'e, 'Hopkins, that there mortgage I'm a-holdin' on ye is eenahout jew, now, s'e, 'an bein' we're kinder old friends, an' I love to do the square thing by a ole neighbor whenever I kin, I'll take that there new piece o' lan' you've jes' bought fer the mortgage, an' give ye fifty dollars to boot.'"

"Oh, oh, pappy, won't you be rich? An' why didn't you tell us?"

Again the limitations of Millie's bench were found too narrow to contain her and her exuberant delight, and another fantastic heel-and-toe performance around the little group aroused Joe's admiring amusement, while Melissy's only comment was:

"Ef anything hed of happened ye, Sam, I'd never wanted to hear nothin' about Hop Holler ag'in."

"I've done tole ye, Lissy, 'at I'm all right," returned Sam, mildly; "an' Joe, I wisht ye'd ketch Mill an' keep her f'm caperin' roun' that-a-way tell I git th'ough a-talkin'. So then s'I, 'Squire, I do no—' an' I hedn't only got them words out, when up jumps Sile, an' s'e, 'That's right—that's right, Hopkins, hole on tell ye git a good offer. Bein' hit was me sole ye Hop Holler, an' I kin afford to do as well by a good neighbor, an' better'n what the 'Squire kin, I'll give you two hundred an' seventy-five dollars fer the Holler; ye see hit's a kinder favorite with me, atter all.'"

A third threatened demonstration on Millie's part was here promptly headed off by Joe. Melissy refrained from comment, and Sam proceeded:

"S'I, 'I'm obleeged to you, Sile, hit's a good offer—' an' up bounces Squire, all red like, an' stomps up an' down, an' s'e, 'Tell ye whut, I'll give ye three hundred clean, an' I drap the mortgage, an' I reckon that there's a better offer'n whut his'n is.' 'Well, s'I, 'hit's a good offer, too, but—' an' next thing, ef them two fellers didn't 'pear to go plum crazy an' crack-e'dy-like, an' stomped an' snorted roun' like they was clean looneyfied, an' kep' hollerin' out, biddin' ag'in one another, like es ef they's at a orkion sale, an' boun' to hev ever' thing t'other wanted, tell finally, s'I, yellin' out loud, 'Ef you fellers'll leave me get a word in aidge-ways, I'll tell ye this yere—I can't sell Hop Holler to narry one on ye, bein' I've done sole it half a hour ago to the railroad folks.' See, I met Joe Bates back yere, an' he tole me the comp'n'y was goin' to run a track right 'thout the middle of the Holler, an' the superintendent was at the hotel a-wantin' to see the man 'at owed it, an' a-askin' who 'twas, an' Joe says fer me to come right 'long up with him, an' s'I, 'Gentlemen, I've saw him an' sole Hop Holler to the railroad fer five hundred dollars.' An' that was the plum truth. Joe 'lowed they'd give more'n that ef I wouldn't a-grabbed up the fust offer, but I 'lowed that were all hit was wuth, an' all I'd git ef I'd a kep it a while, like I was 'lowin' to do, an' anyhow, hit's enough, fer we'll hev a ele'r three hundred after the mortgage is paid. An' now, Millie, ye kin caper ef ye want to; but Lissy, ef you're got a bite o' supper anywheres about, I bleeve I cud eat a little grain."

Half an hour later a big, mellow, full moon was showing a broad, smiling face over the long eastern hill range, and the tender little dapples of shadow and gleams of light hovered caressingly about the battered, gray old farmhouse, upon whose rude, low-roofed porch Joe and Millie stood hand in hand, silent for happiness; while inside, Sam Hopkins was breathing a sigh of pure content, as he sat down to his meal of fried bacon, warmed-over corn-pone and cold milk, waited upon by Melissy, who was in a state of agitated delight and altogether too joyful to eat.

"Lissy," said Sam, "we kin hev flour bread an' store tea now, ef we want to, but 'twon't never taste no better'n this. Weren't hit jis' plum Providence 'at made me buy that ole Holler?"

"Hit were so," responded Melissy, heartily, "an' Sam, glad an' proud an' thankful es I am 'at we're so rich, I'm a heap gladder an' prouder an' thankfuller 'cause you ain't dead ner nothin' happened to."

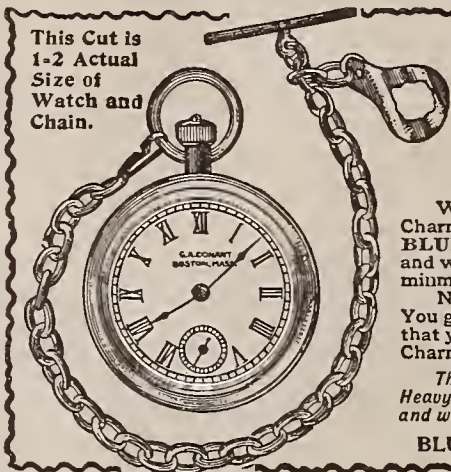
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Our Household.

HAVE YOU WRITTEN TO MOTHER?

Pray may I ask you, worthy lad,
Whose smile no care can smother;
Though busy life throbs round about,
Have you written home to mother?

You are fast forgetting, aren't you, quite,
How fast the weeks went flying;
And that a little, blotted sheet,
Unanswered, still is lying?

Don't you remember how she stood,
With wistful glance at parting?
Don't you remember how the tears
Were in her soft eyes starting?

Have you forgotten how her arm
Stole round you to caress you?
Have you forgotten those low words:
"Good-by, my son, God bless you?"

Oh, do not wrong her patient love,
Save God's, there is no other
So faithful through all mists of sin;
Fear not to write to mother.

Tell her how hard it is to walk,
As walked the Master, lowly;
Tell her how hard it is to keep
A man's life pure and holy.

Tell her to keep the lamp of prayer
A light, a beacon burning;
Whose beams shall reach you far away,
Shall lure your soul returning.

Tell her you love her dearly still,
For fear some sad to-morrow
Shall bear away the listening soul,
And leave you lost in sorrow.

And then through bitter, falling tears,
And sighs you may not smother,
You will remember when too late
You did not write to mother.
—Jane Ronalson, in Banner of Gold.

HOME TOPICS.

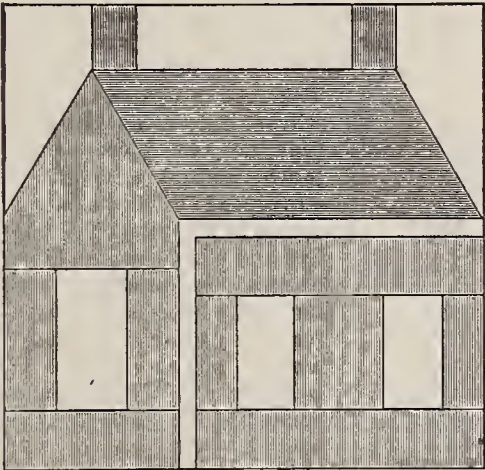
BREAKFAST CEREALS.—While there are a great variety of cereals that appear on our breakfast-table, many people claim that they are unable to eat any of them on account of their being difficult of digestion. No doubt one cause of this is the lack of sufficient cooking, but another is the sugar eaten with them and the insufficient mastication. They are merely put in the mouth and allowed to slip down the throat as fast as possible. A member of our family found some years ago that if he ate a slice of dry toast with his dish of oatmeal in the morning it would agree with him perfectly, otherwise he suffered from indigestion. The secret was that being obliged to chew the toast all was masticated together and the digestion of the starch cells was commenced in the mouth, as it should be. Nearly every one who tries breakfast cereals with good rich milk or cream only, without sugar, soon likes it in that way just as well and finds that it is much less likely to create acidity in the stomach.

Oatmeal, cracked wheat and other cereals that require long cooking should be cooked in a double boiler, as they ought not to be stirred, and then it can be cooked when getting dinner, left in the boiler and merely heated without being stirred in the morning.

OUR CHILDREN.—Nearly every person has opinions about the training of children, and these opinions are almost as great in their variety as the number of persons. It seems to me one thing we ought to seek to avoid is children becoming self-conscious.

entertain, not only the family, but every visitor, must also hear and see how smart and "cute" the little one is. Every bright thing he says or does is repeated in his hearing until it is no wonder the child is forward and self-conscious, instead of being modest and shy, as he would be without this training. As soon as he goes to school the teacher continues the showing off, especially of bright pupils; then the Sunday-school must have its concerts, etc., in which the children are again on exhibition, and so it goes on. Is it not possible, with all the new ideas of education, that our little children are being taught too much? From babyhood they are kept on a constant strain, and too often by the time they are in the high school they are a mere bundle of nerves. Would it not be better to let them live slower and not develop quite so much precocity? It certainly is not a pleasant sight to see little girls and boys of four or five or even nine or ten years constantly thinking of themselves, how they look and what is thought of them, desiring and expecting admiration from beholders.

I would have children courteous but modest, speaking to and giving their hand to their mother's visitors when they are presented, but not expecting to assist in the entertaining. Let us keep them little children just as long as possible. Better that they be too shy than too forward.



OLD HOMESTEAD.

A child that is old beyond his years, that is anxious to be noticed and to hear everything that is said by his elders in preference to playing with other children, is not a natural child, and has been in a measure defrauded of his birthright by unwise training. It is true some children are naturally so shy that they need encouragement instead of repression, and we can only succeed by studying carefully the peculiarities of disposition of each child, and adopting methods to suit their different requirements. We must strive to understand the nature of each one and allow neither work nor pleasure to stand before our duty to the child.

"Ours is the seed-time; God alone
Sees the end of what is sown;
Beyond our vision, weak and dim,
The harvest-time is hid with him."

MAIDA McL.

SOME FANCY BREADS.

There are some of us who still cling to the belief that "bread is the staff of life," and to such I am sure the following recipes will recommend themselves after a trial:

MUFFINS (fine).—

- 1 quart of sweet milk,
- 3 teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, mixed in flour enough to make a stiff batter,
- 1 scant cupful of melted butter,
- 4 eggs, beaten separately, and whites added last,
- ½ teaspoonful of salt.

Bake at once in a hot oven. Have the pans greased and hot before dropping in the batter.

POPPETS.—Sift

- 2½ tablespoonfuls of corn-meal,
- 2 heaping tablespoonfuls of flour,
- 1 tablespoonful of white sugar,
- 1 saltspoonful of salt,
- 1 teaspoonful of baking-powder.

Beat one egg, add to the above dry mixture, with enough milk to make a drop batter. Stir in one half teaspoonful of melted butter, and drop by spoonfuls into smoking-hot lard.

CURRENT LOAF.—

- 1 tablespoonful of butter,
- 1 scant cupful of sugar,
- 1 egg,
- 1½ cupfuls of sifted flour,
- 1 teaspoonful of baking-powder,
- ¾ of a cupful of milk, scant.

Rub butter to a cream, add sugar gradually, then the well-beaten egg and the other ingredients; last of all, three fourths of a cupful of currants, which have been dusted with flour. Bake in a loaf, and serve hot, same as sally-lunn.

SALLY-LUNN.—

- 1 scant cupful of sugar,
- 2 eggs,
- 1 cupful of milk,
- ½ cupful of butter and lard, mixed,
- 3 cupfuls of flour,
- 2 teaspoonfuls of baking-powder.

Grate nutmeg over the top, and bake one half hour in a pan with a spout.

MARY M. WILLARD.

SOME TRIED RECIPES.

A very delicate dessert called Swiss cream can be served in glasses and adds much to the appearance of it, as it is handed around.

SWISS CREAM.—Mix half a pound of powdered sugar into a pint of sweet cream, add the juice of two lemons and the grated rind of one, three glasses of white wine; stir all together, putting it on ice for a few hours; also put the glasses on ice. When nearly ready to serve beat the mixture with an egg-beater, taking off the foam as it rises and filling the glasses. Serve with sponge-cake or lady-fingers, or place a small macaroon on top.

ORANGE SALAD.—Use one half teacupful of sugar, one even tablespoonful of flour, a pinch of red pepper, and one half teaspoonful of mustard, juice of one lemon, butter the size of an egg, a tablespoonful of vinegar; beat three eggs separately, then put them together. Cook this mixture until it creams, a moment longer will curdle it, then add half a cupful of milk, and a very little salt; put on ice to cool; if too thick, thin with cream. Peel oranges, removing all the white skin, and cut in cubes and sugar them. Serve on a crisp lettuce-leaf, with two olives and a wafer.
E. R.

SQUARE FOR DOILY OR TIDY.

Material, half a spool of No. 50 cotton or No. 90 linen thread, and a fine steel crochet-needle.

First row—Ch 5, join.

Second row—1 ch tr in loop.

Third row—Ch 5, miss 2, tr in next, ch 5, tr in same st, ch 2, skip 2, tr in next st, ch 5, tr in same st, ch 2, miss 2, tr in next st, ch 5, fasten in loop.

Fourth row—Turn, ch 3, 3 tr in loop, of 5 ch, ch 5, 3 tr in same loop, tr in tr, * ch 2, tr in tr, 3 tr in loop, ch 5, 3 tr in same loop, tr in tr, repeat.

Fifth row—Ch 3, tr on each tr, 3 tr in loop, ch 5, tr on each tr, * ch 2, tr on each tr, 3 tr in loop, ch 5, 3 tr in same loop, tr in each tr, repeat.

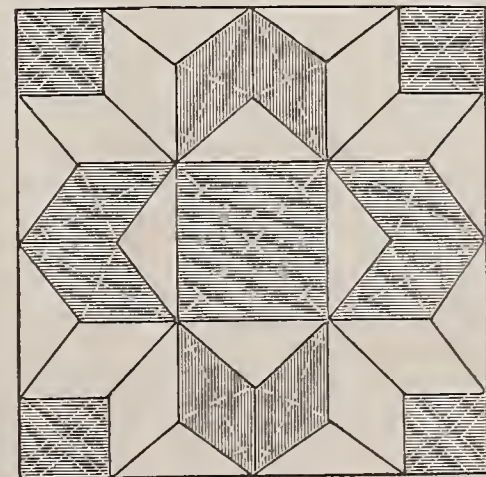
Sixth row—Ch 3, tr on each tr, 3 tr in loop, ch 5, 3 tr in loop, tr on each tr, * ch 2, tr on each tr, 3 tr in loop, ch 5, 3 tr in same loop, tr in each tr, repeat.

Seventh row—Ch 3, tr on each tr, 3 tr in loop, ch 5, 3 tr in same loop, tr on each tr, * ch 2, tr on each tr, 3 tr in loop, ch 5, 3 tr in same loop, tr on each tr, repeat.

Eighth row—Same as seventh row.

Ninth row—Same as eighth row.

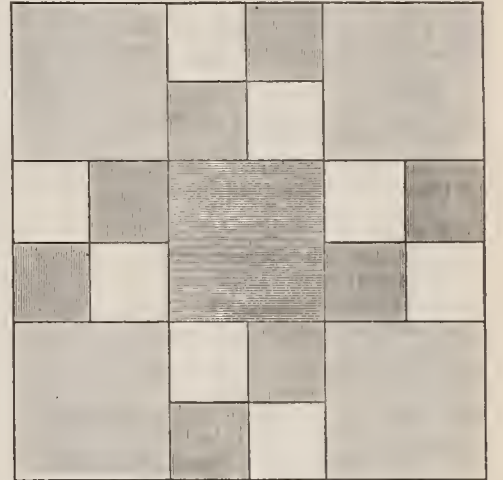
Tenth row—Ch 5, skip 2, tr in next, * ch 5, skip 5, 9 tr in next, ch 5, skip 5, tr in next, ch 2, skip 2, tr in last tr, ch 2, tr in loop, ch 5, tr in loop, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, skip 2, tr in next, ch 5, skip 5, 9 tr in next, ch 5, skip 5, ch 2, tr in last tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, skip 2, tr in next, repeat.



KLONDIKE BLOCK.

Eleventh row—Ch 5, tr in tr, * ch 3, tr between first 2 tr, ch 1, tr between next 2 tr, ch 1, tr between next 2 tr, repeat until there are 8 tr in fan, ch 3, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in loop, ch 5, tr in loop, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 3, repeat.

Twelfth row—Ch 5, tr in tr, * 3 tr in each loop of fan, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in loop, ch 5, tr in loop, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, 3 tr in each



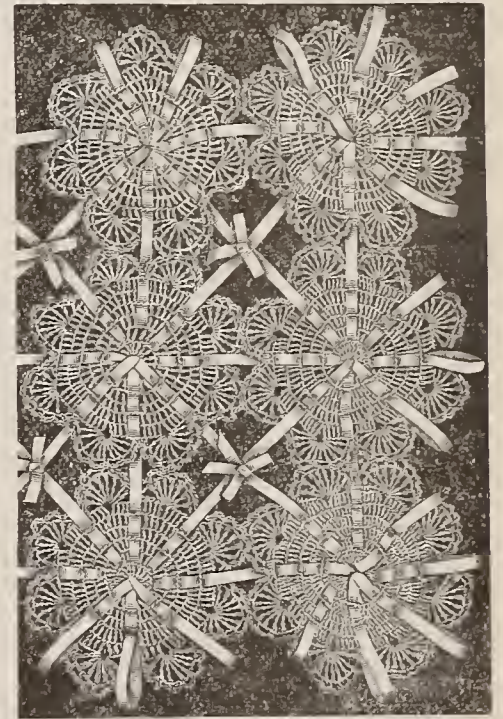
HAND OF FRIENDSHIP.

loop of fan, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, repeat.

Thirteenth row—Ch 3, 8 tr in same st, * ch 4, tr in 8th tr of fan, ch 2, tr in 11th tr of fan, ch 4, 9 tr in 2d loop, ch 4, tr in last tr, ch 2, tr in loop, ch 5, tr in loop, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 4, 9 tr in 3d loop, ch 4, tr in 8th tr of fan, ch 2, tr in 11th tr of fan, ch 4, 9 tr in center loop, repeat.

Fourteenth row—Ch 4, tr between 1st and 2d tr of fan, ch 1, tr between next 2 tr, repeat across fan, * ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, make fan as before, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in loop, ch 5, tr in loop, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, make fan as before, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, make fan as before, repeat.

Fifteenth row—Ch 3, * 3 tr in each loop of fan, tr in tr, ch 2, 3 tr in each loop of



DOILY OR TIDY.

fan, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in loop, ch 5, tr in loop, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, 3 tr in each loop of fan, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, 3 tr in each loop of fan, tr in tr, ch 2, tr in tr, repeat.

Sixteenth row—* 2 tr in 2d tr of fan, ch 3, 2 tr in same st, fasten in next tr with s c, repeat across fan, s c in loop between fans, repeat fan, 3 tr in each of 1st 3 loops, 7 tr in corner loop, 3 tr in each of the next 3 loops, repeat fans and corner.

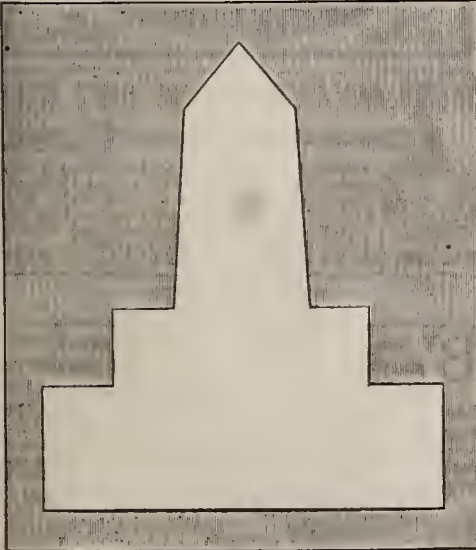
Four or nine of these squares fastened together by the central points of the fans make a lovely tidy, if ribbon is run through the square loops.

If made of coarse cotton, narrow ribbon is run in and a tiny bow is placed at the base of the central fan at each side, and a rosette in the center.
MAY LONARD.

The Chinese have a saying that "drunkenness does not produce faults; it discloses them; fortune does not change manners; it uncovers them."

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The material generally recognized as the most valuable rust protector on the market is Allen's Anti-Rust Japan made by The Allen Anti-Rust Mfg Co., 413 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio. This material is rust-proof, fire-proof, water-proof, acid-proof and time-proof. It is applied to roofs in the same manner as paint, and it is receiving the highest commendations wherever it is used. If you have, or if your friends have an old tin or iron roof that shows rust spots or that leaks, it will pay you well to give this material a thorough investigation.



GARFIELD'S MONUMENT.

They are too much on exhibition. As soon as baby begins to try to say a few words he is called on to say them for each admiring friend. As they grow older children are too often trained in a parrot-like way to

Our Household.

TO MAKE A HEAVEN ON EARTH.

Eff you have doubts 'bout a futur' state—
Of old Nick stand in fear—
Jest git the bulge on that old gent
And start your heav'n down here.

Recipe:—

You'll do it jest as slick as grease,
'Thout theologic school;
"Do nuto others," them's the words—
I b'lieve 'tis the golden rule.

Remarks:—

Eff you're not doin' here on earth
'Bout's well as you know how,
You'll be a kind o' homesick saint
Up there in heav'n, I vow.

For ef your 'fection's sot on cash
You'll lousome be above;
How could you chummy with them saints,
Whose on'y "pile" is love?

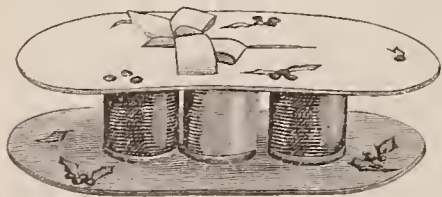
—E. Bradshaw, in Boston Transcript.

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES.

It is useless now to be fretting over the peach-stains that so disfigure one's pretty white table-cloths and napkins, or other articles of household or wearing apparel. Hot water will not erase them, as it does fruit-stains of almost any other description, and the spots that we were so careful to evade stare us in the face in an unpleasant manner. But an old housekeeper, whose store of housekeeping lore is not far excelled, at least, tells us that they will disappear as the dew before the morning sun, if we will wet those stained articles when peach-trees are in bloom another season, and lay them in the sun.

Why, if this be true, will the spots not disappear at any other season? Can any one explain, and does every one believe that when peach-trees are in bloom old peach-stains will disappear, if wet and exposed to the rays of the sun? We shall have to believe it, for our authority is not to be disputed. But we are so skeptical as to think it cannot possibly be our "good luck" to meet with such success. But when peach-trees are in bloom again we shall try it. "Go thou and do likewise."

Buying brooms by the dozen or half dozen is an economy that the housewife should practice, if so situated that she can secure them from some manufacturer. For she can save dimes, and even dollars. When brooms could not be had for less than twenty-five and thirty cents each at the stores, we have bought them of men who made them and then carried them by wagon-loads through the country, selling them at \$1.75 a dozen, and brooms equal, and many times superior to those handled by town dealers. Just a fraction over fourteen cents each, at this rate. At \$2 a dozen it will pay one to invest in them and put them aside to be used as needed. Several brooms are needed in the course of a year, and three or more in use at the same time is a wise policy. We keep a broom and carpet-sweeper in a closet where it will be always convenient to reach when wanted for sweeping bedroom carpets and dining-room and sitting-room carpets. A kitchen broom is never brought in for such purposes—and the kitchen has usually two. One of them is for sweeping and another is for sweeping water from floors, steps and walks after their bath of hot suds and rinse-water. The carpet brooms are often scalded and then thoroughly dried before put away, and they are never left standing brush side down. A broom is soon ruined if left in any other position than standing



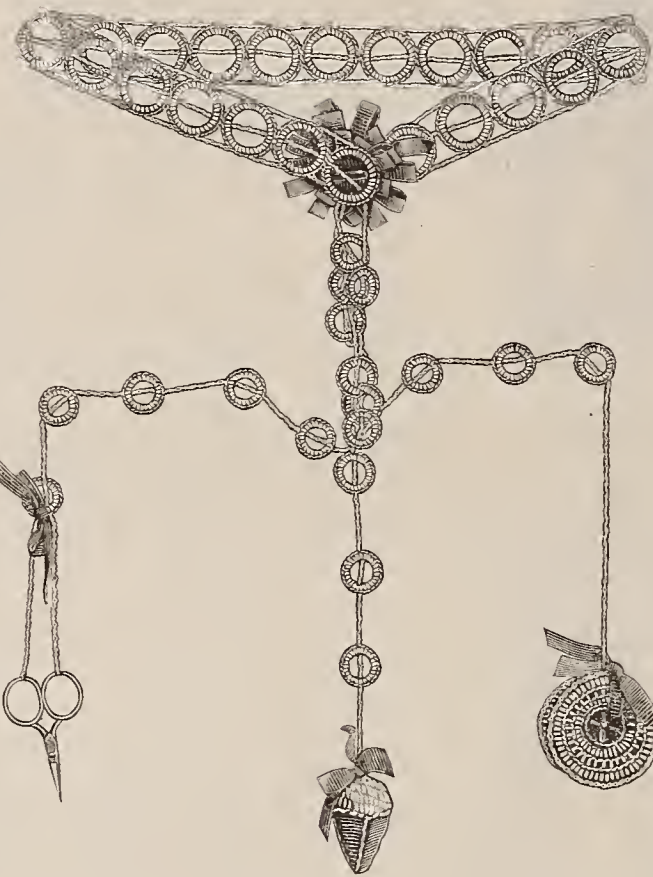
on or hanging by its handle. This fact it is almost impossible to teach to many housekeepers, and their brooms are witnesses to it.

We used to sweep carpets with a wet broom, because some one told us to. It does, indeed, help to keep down the dust that invariably rises when sweeping. But it also ruins carpets. They will become streaked and grimy in appearance, and with a carpet that has colors that sweep together at the best, the wet-broom sweeping becomes most a dismal failure. We pity the housewife who has ever been so unfortunate as to invest her money in a carpet having colors that will sweep to-

gether. And we know of many who have. If soft newspapers are dipped in water, wrung as dry as possible, picked in pieces and thrown down upon the carpet before sweeping, no bad results will follow. Even yet the better way, though, is to sweep with a carpet-sweeper having its brush well dampened. It must be washed off very often and lightly wiped off on a towel or other cloth for the purpose. To dampen and wash it, it must be slipped from the frame. But this is no difficult task, and one feels repaid for the work from the changed appearance of the carpet. To reach dust and litter about the base-boards a broom will always be needed, but for the remainder of the sweeping the carpet-sweeper, dampened, will do the work nicely for four or five days of the six every week.

A carpet wiped over with a large flannel cloth wrung from very warm water looks sufficiently brightened and freshened to pay for all trouble, and a little turpentine added to the water gives excellent results.

A "corner cupboard" in our kitchen has gone with us from one home to another because of its usefulness—not for its beauty. It was made for us one rainy day by one of those most excellent "hired men" of which farmers do at least occasionally succeed in getting. He was of inventive genius, and whatever he did, his work was nicely done. It was from a large-sized soap-box he made the cupboard, fitted it with three shelves, made a neat hanging door, and we have found it the most convenient of little kitchen "contrivances." It



holds cans of spices and bottles of flavoring extracts, measuring-cups and large spoons, sharp knives and steel forks, wooden spoons and egg whips and beaters, and it is altogether an exceedingly convenient thing to have. It is painted always to match the kitchen paint, and is neat-looking as well as very handy.

There is nothing to compare with a jack-knife for kitchen use, when it comes to preparing vegetables. We have invested in "paring-knives," and we have discarded them without fail. A sharp case-knife is good, but nothing so good as a jack-knife. We have accepted them from the "men-folks" when they have purchased new ones and cast the old ones aside, and we have bought new ones expressly for the kitchen. The twenty-five-cent "keen-kutter" has been a favorite. But our same men-folks are sure to borrow the new. So we usually content ourselves with the old ones. A jack-knife blade that is broken off short makes the nicest tack-lifter imaginable. Nothing compares with it except a strong-handled screw-driver. Tack-lifters of the patent kinds we have failed to secure that we ever liked. Nothing like the screw-driver and broken jack-knives for this work with housecleaners of our household.

A paste that will glue and mend anything we hand on for the benefit of other housekeepers: To two ounces of clear gum arabic take one and one half ounces of fine starch and one half ounce of white sugar, granulated. Dissolve the gum arabic in a cupful of water, and mix the starch and sugar in this mucilage. Add at least

half a cupful more of water, put all into a dish that can be suspended in a kettle of boiling water, and cook until the starch becomes clear. If too thick for good mucilage, add hot water until of the consistency that suits. The cement should be as thick as tar for mending dishes, etc., but to use where "store" mucilage is usually used, this will be too thick. It can be divided into two parts, one part to be kept for mending, and be left thick, as indicated, while another part can be thinned for mucilage uses. The addition of camphor



or cloves prevents the paste from spoiling. Keep covered tight. An article that every housekeeper needs.

Canton flannel is to be numbered among the essentials for housekeeping. Bags of it should be made with the nap side out, to slip over brooms for wiping off the papered walls often. Our walls become dusty, as does our furniture, carpets and curtains, and should be often wiped off. Such bags are inexpensive and very useful. A large piece of it is very convenient for rubbing silver, in place of the oft-recommended chamois-skin. The black will wash out of the nap quite readily, and it gives a gloss to silver. Canton flannel pockets for keeping silver knives, forks and spoons bright are very convenient.

The long strips should be stitched into compartments, that no two pieces shall touch, and of a depth to correspond with the silver article to be protected. The five and eight cent qualities of this description are cotton cloths much appreciated for innumerable purposes among good housewives. It is serviceable as well, and should find a place by the bolt or half bolt in the home, if possible.

NEDELLA HAMPTON.

EMBROIDERY HOUSEWIFE.

These trifles used to be at the waist of every needlewoman, so that time would not be wasted looking for lost materials. This one is made from untwisted flax knitting-linen, two sizes of brass rings, and satin ribbon.

Use as many rings as your waist measure calls for, and cover with a plain crochet-stitch. The long ends for emery, scissors and needle-case must vary in length. The back of the

needle-case can be of crocheted rings also. The belt of rings is fastened with a hook and eye, which should be covered with silk thread, as it remains fastened better.

THREAD-CASE.—The corners of linen saved from round centerpieces are here utilized, embroidered in holly or small flowers. Three spools of silk, white, red and green are used with this, and a yard of white ribbon. Embroider and launder your linen-piece first, then cover the paste-boards and paste white paper on the under sides. Lay them in a book under weights over night, so they will be perfectly dried. Then with an awl put holes in to fit the position of the spools and lace the white ribbon through, tying it on top.

SLEEVE-HOLDERS.—These are a nice gift for a gentleman to receive from some lady. They are made of rings covered with crocheting and the center filled with spider-web. A short piece of elastic draws them on the sleeves. Finish with satin ribbon bows. Make of dark red or black silk.

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CHURCH AND CHARITY.

While the question concerning the right way of obtaining money for church and charitable purposes is always being discussed by some, others are on the alert for new ways and new plans for getting funds. While there are some who argue that an "offering" unto the Lord is much more acceptable than a "collection" for the Lord's work, others feel that the end justifies the many means which are used.

Some remember the exhortation to "bring in all the tithes," and believe that even "upon the bells of the horses should holiness to the Lord be written." "That every pot (and its contents) in the Lord's house should be like the bowls before the altars, holiness to the Lord of hosts."

This has been and probably always will be under discussion, both in city and country churches, and in the meantime novel methods of money-getting for church and charity are constantly coming to the notice of the observing.

Women seem to have special adaptability to formulate these new things.

In the fall those interested in a mission in the northern part of the city felt that the building must be repaired and somewhat enlarged. The women's society took up the matter, and soon were going about to the grocers, both wholesale and retail, asking for gifts of something they could sell. Some of the dealers put the women off as easily as possible, while others gave liberally. Very near Thanksgiving time they had an auction in one of the rooms of their mission house, and realized \$250 from the things given by the grocers; then they had a supper, and in one way and another they managed until the chapel was nicely fitted up.

Another set of women belonging to a large church heard that a certain soap manufactory in New York had made the offer "that if any society would sell one hundred boxes of laundry-soap, at \$2 a box, that the society could have one hundred dollars of the money, sending the other hundred to the concern in New York." These women worked faithfully and sold the required number of boxes. It may not seem a hard thing to do in a city among one's friends to sell a hundred boxes of soap, but it was no easy task, for a great many buy cheaper laundry-soap, some do not buy by the box, thinking it makes a laundress too lavish; others differ as to the kind, and what one uses another would not have in the house. These women divided the money among the missionary societies of their particular church. Some wondered if that was the right and best way to get money for the church. There is a club of fashionable women friends, twenty in number, who, once a week, meet at each other's houses by turn, to sew for charity. They call themselves "Quiet Twenty," or "Q. T.'s." The lady at whose house they meet furnishes the work for the afternoon, or is responsible for it. The twenty women are specially interested in almost as many charities, and one goes to the hospital she is most engaged about, and gets work which has been cut out and is ready to make up. Generally in the large hospitals there are plenty of gowns, pillow-slips, sheets, and so forth, waiting for hands to make up. Things are brought from the rescue missions, bootblack's home, or from anywhere the hostess pleases. It is quite surprising the amount of sewing done in that twenty weeks by the club; they get so interested that if they do not finish the garment they begin, they will take it home, and either do it or have their seamstress finish it. The class of ladies that belong to the club really have very little time to sew at home, though some of them are fond of the needle.

A wealthy woman in this day and generation, who is at the head of a large establishment, is like a general, if she makes her life a success she cannot take time for detail work. She must give close superintendence, but employ other hands to execute much. At five o'clock the work is laid aside and a cup of Russian tea and wafer or something just as simple is served, for they all go to their homes before the night dinner time. One of the attractions of the afternoon is that before parting they have a parlor game, which is generally an original one. Whether each hostess originated her game or got assistance no one knows. Last year they had twenty meetings and sent twenty new games out in their set of society, but of course no game stays with any one company if it is good. The company never had warning before coming as to what the hostess was to propose. At one meeting the

hostess announced during the sewing that the game that day was to be an anecdote party or conundrums, as they chose. The stories must not be anything they had read, but things that had happened to themselves or their friends, or funny situations of some kind. After the tea, pencils and paper were passed around and each was asked to note the story and riddle she liked best, as they were told, the one that received the most votes would receive a prize; in fact, there was a prize for the best anecdote, and also one for the best query or conundrum. The hostess told the first story. The things told were so bright and original that they would appear well in an "editor's drawer" or a funny column.

Odd stories of servant girls and funny sayings of children, strange misunderstandings of words, all came in for a share. I wish there was space that I might repeat the stories and puzzles, and have the judgment of FARM AND FIRESIDE as to which was best. At any rate most readers will agree that giving or charity sewing is easier when partially wrapped up in the sugar-coating of some social function than when taken pure and unadulterated.

MARY JOSLYN SMITH.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

Among the numerous reforms of the present century none show more gratifying results than those inaugurated by the various village improvement associations. The first one of these societies was formed, I believe, at Stockbridge, Mass., about forty years ago. The town to-day is noted for its cleanliness, thrift and beauty. These associations are now numbered by thousands and reach from Bar Harbor, Maine, to the Pacific coast, and as far south as Aiken, South Carolina.

Western people, with their usual vim and far-sightedness, have made the sanitation and beautifying of their towns compulsory by municipal act; but we of the eastern and middle states have found it necessary to band ourselves together and prove our words and promises by deeds, and the spending of some money, before the village lawmakers would recognize or befriend the movement. The work of these associations varies in almost every place, but all have the same object in view; namely, the sanitation of our towns by a competent system of water-works and sewers, and the beautifying of streets and property, the development of the natural beauty in rural landscapes, the study of architecture and its harmonious relation to streets and landscapes, the caring for cemeteries and development of parks and public playgrounds, the building of libraries and assembly-halls, the caring for fine or notable trees in the neighborhood, and the study of forestry, the preservation of historical landmarks, and the formation of local historical societies, and one of the biggest movements of the day is the good-roads agitation. State and the national governments are studying this problem, and almost every state in the Union is to-day experimenting with many sorts of roads and pavings, to find which best suits her soil and climate.

Another problem of the day is the disposal of sewage and garbage. The problem is readily solved by fire, as Boston has proven with her huge crematory for the incineration of garbage; and it is a question of a few years only until every town in the land will have a garbage crematory, and our soil and wells will become pure again. In fact, there is no question of municipal law as applied to village good that is too great for these societies to tackle; and it is an impossibility for people to study such questions and not become better citizens.

A great many causes have combined to arouse the United States on the question of town improvement. That it is aroused you have only to look through the files of the leading magazines of the past ten or fifteen years, or watch the daily papers, those tell-tale thermometers of the public pulse, and you will be astonished at the awakening.

Foreign travel brings home thousands each year discontented with the lack of order and cleanliness in their own cities and towns. Books of travel have brought the lack of beauty home to thousands more who must see the old world through others' eyes. Architects have written books and magazine articles, and illustrated them so fully, that scarcely a person in our land but has thought and read more or less on the subject; and the new dwellings and business blocks in our cities prove that

the day of the store-box style of architecture is over for America. Physicians have thundered philippics against the lack of sanitation, until it would seem there is no one left alive but that has more or less intelligent views on that subject.

The World's Fair at Chicago will be longer remembered for its beauty of architecture and landscape-gardening than for all its exhibits combined. It set a new standard of beauty for each city, town and village in America, and has made possible a town improvement society in places where ten years ago an association for such a purpose would have met with derision or the most callous indifference. Now, most places are awaiting leaders who will tell them where to commence and what to do.

The League of American Wheelmen are working for good roads, and if properly understood and sustained by the farmer, will soon have roads to the market towns which will enable him to handle his produce without regard to season or weather. The Good Government clubs, with their efforts at municipal reforms, the Colonial Dames and Daughters, by their interest in preserving historical landmarks, have done much to arouse patriotic and local pride. But one of the greatest factors of all is the much derided summer boarder. He flees from the heat of the city only to find unshaded porches and treeless yards, unscreened windows and ill-smelling drains and cesspools in close contact to wells. It was hearing the shocked and indignant comments of some summer boarders on the people who could content themselves in such unhygienic and unlovely surroundings which caused the first of these societies to be formed. Life in cities is hard and complex, and the dweller therein hails with delight and instantly adopts anything which lightens toil or adds to his pleasure. Indeed, he not only welcomes but suggests conveniences he would like, and the inventor rarely keeps pace with his demands. The farmer and villager, however, are what we call conservative people. They hate changes and are slow to adopt new ideas. The villager laughs at the farmer for his opposition to the L. A. W. in their efforts to obtain good roads by legislation, because he knows the farmers in certain localities have often lost more in a few weeks' time by being unable from the state of the roads to take advantage of a sudden rise in the markets than their taxes on a good road would amount to in a lifetime. The villager smiles at the farmer's obtuseness, and the city dweller marvels at the blindness, aye, wicked folly of the villager in keeping their town so unattractive that their most intelligent young people of both sexes leave home as soon as they can find employment in a city where their craving for pleasanter surroundings is met in the parks, good streets, libraries and picture-galleries. But I fully believe that the greatest factor of all in this exodus of the young to the cities is the delight they feel in the well-brushed, orderly way in which life moves in the larger places. This fact is becoming recognized, and an aroused activity on farms and in hamlets and villages is the result.

Students of sociology have for years been telling us in print their fears that in another century everybody would be living in towns and drawing dreadful pictures of the vice and misery such herding would cause. And truly there has been some slight cause for alarm along certain lines. There has been a great tendency among farmers who own fine farms to rent them out, and they move to town. But in the last few years a factor unthought of when those writers were voicing their fears has come into play. The electric cars are webbing our prettiest and most desirable roads with their wires and rails, and are going to spread our cities out. People will prefer to live where they can grow fruit, have better air, and homes of their own, when they know a twenty or thirty minute ride on the trolley-cars will put them within reach of churches, lectures, concerts and the social side of town life.

The next ten years will see the number of electric roads increased beyond our present belief, and they are going to revolutionize town and country living. So be wise and have your neighborhood so attractive that it will draw the best class of home-dwellers to your midst.

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Our Sunday Afternoon.

HAS THY BROTHER FALLEN?

Has thy brother fallen
In temptation's hour,
Overcome by Satan,
Conquered by his power?
Cease thy cold upbraiding,
Censure not his tears;
Love will save the sinner,
Never won by sneers.

Thou art on thy journey
Where the snares are spread,
And hast need of watching
Both thy heart and head.
If his grace be slighted
In the hour of need,
Thy own strength is weaker
Than a bruised reed.

Exercise thy mercy
Which thy God bestows;
Never wound thy brother,
Nor increase his woes.
Charity is holy—
'Tis the Gospel leaven—
Charity is Christ-like,
Charity is heaven.

If thou wouldst be happy,
Kindly speak of all;
Breathe no bitter slander
O'er thy brother's fall;
Thou thyself may'st stumble;
Learn the law of love,
And the earth shall brighten
Into heaven above.

J. H.

THE DAY OF REST.

THE attempted encroachment upon the weekly day of rest by large employers of labor may well be viewed with alarm not only by Christian people, but also by society at large. The observance of the day has its social and economic bearings, as well as its distinctively religious benefits. It is no less true that the general welfare of society demands it than that Christianity needs it. From this point of view, as well as from the Christian desire to safeguard the day for holy use, the reported attempt on the part of large manufacturers of iron and steel to have their employees work seven days a week should be met with emphatic disapproval. Daily papers have announced that the Illinois Steel Company has made such a request. The claim is made that the operation on Sunday of such large plants as those of the Carnegie Steel Company and other firms makes such a course necessary. The Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, which has steadily opposed Sunday labor is now confronted by the question. It is devoutly to be hoped, in the larger interests of society, that the drift in the direction of Sunday labor will be stemmed. The laborer himself will be the loser. The increased pay will be but inadequate compensation for the loss. He may presently find himself obliged to do his seven days' work without such increase. There will simply be a new chapter in the oppression of labor. The Christian sentiment which has hallowed the weekly rest-day has been labor's true friend.—Baptist Union.

HOME, SWEET HOME.

"The dearest spot on earth, is home," sang the poet, and his words have found echo in millions of hearts, all the world around. The axiom finds its confirmation in the lives of multitudes of earth's really noble and great men and women. A recent writer in one of the magazines, in an article on Mt. Vernon, the home of Washington, says: "Whatever those who visit the old home on the Potomac may have thought of the life there, it was ever the dearest spot on earth to its master and mistress. General Washington wrote in his diary, when he quitted his home in April, 1879, to enter upon his duties as chief executive of the new nation: 'About ten o'clock I bade adieu to Mt. Vernon, to private life and to domestic felicity, and with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express, set out for New York;' while Mrs. Martha Washington always spoke of the days spent away from home, amid the stir and excitement of public life, as 'lost days.'"

The name of Washington and his position at the head of the nation naturally suggest similar known proclivities of other incumbents of the White House, and of other men and women in high positions, in whose lives the strongest light was that

of home love. "All that I am I owe to my mother," many a man high in the councils of the world has said with earnestness and truth. "Mother, home and heaven," sacred trinity of holy associations, marking the pathway from mortal weakness to immortal strength and power.

DO ONE THING WELL.

One great secret in the lives of noted men is that they have done one thing well, or better than millions of others. Such men have occasionally been called "crazy," and "cranks" and "fools," but as a rule these are the men who have succeeded where other men have failed. These are the men who have attained a brilliant success where abler men have either failed or attained only an indifferent and partial success.

Everywhere this man who has mastered one thing is the man who finds places open to him. In the business world, in scholarship, in art, in military life, in religion, while others are searching for places, he finds more room at the top than he knows what to do with. Columbus the discoverer, Napoleon the general, Livingstone the missionary, Luther the reform-

er, Gibbon the historian, Abraham Lincoln the emancipator, William Lloyd Garrison the abolitionist, Thomas A. Edison the inventor, Tennyson the poet, Spurgeon the preacher, and a host of others, became eminent in the world because, like Paul, the supreme motto of their lives was, "This one thing I do."

The lesson here is too plain to be pointed out. We may be able to know many things, see many things, do many things in a certain way, but let us know one thing, and be able to do one thing well.—Christian Work.

AT THE OUTSET OF MARRIED LIFE.

To give yourself away in true love is the beginning of true humility and usefulness. The man or maiden who opens that golden gate lives henceforth in a sweeter and better atmosphere. Do not be true to higher instincts; do but cultivate candor and simplicity and fidelity, and I have every hope for you. But let it never pass from your thoughts how much depends upon you now if you would secure not only love but respect.

Every married man and woman passes through a transition after they come to know each other thoroughly, and ever af-

ter they love each other more or less. If they are patient with each other's faults and try to keep the fairest face on all things—try to make the best of all things—they will find a new bond of union in this mutual hopefulness which is the truest office of love. But if, when they find out that they are each not angels, not altogether perfect, they become indifferent and neglectful, then alas for both! Beware of this.

The sum of human happiness is made up of numberless little things. It is not the great things—great presents, great occasions or great demonstrations of any kind which will make you happy, but the many nameless courtesies and surprises of affection, the neat looks and kind words and gentle ways and profound respect of true love—it is these little things which, falling drop by drop like spring showers upon the frozen earth, melt away all that is cold and hard in our natures, and make them bud and bloom with full luxuriance.—Rev. N. A. Staples.

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Remember, I do not make the medicine or sell it, and it is only my desire that you may test, free of charge, the best medicine of its class in the world, and learn where to procure a remedy that will most certainly cure you.

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Smiles.

IN WASHINGTON.

A rhythmic chant to celebrate Immortal enphonies; A canticle to titillate The vocal faculties; A monograph that shall endure—Of Washington's nomenclature And weird derivatives obscure; O muse, celestial, sing!

Researches lexical, sans use, With "siwash" evolution, And Litera will not refuse Your spirit absolution

If, writhing 'neath the awful spell, Your harrowed feelings shall rebel And find vent in a smothered "—!" well Most any ancient thing, Klickitat and Stillaguamish, Semiahmoo and Skykomish, Utsaladdy and Suohomish, Mnikilteo and Skokomish, Kittitas and Tappenish, Nahwatzel and Duamish, Kipowsin and Okinokane, Chamokane and Okauogan, Skookumchuck and Tulalip, Samish Flats and Puyallup, Washtougal and Wabkiakum, Wenatchee and Umtaum, Snoqualmie and Chewaukum, Cowiche and Newaukum, Skauokawa and Enumclaw, Kahlouta and Entitqua, Kamilcher and Chewelah, Sopenah and Washtucna, Conconully and Olequa, Et cetera and klatawa.

—Portland Oregonian.

SAD, SAD.

HE had a wild look in his eye, and a face full of lines of care and agony. His steps were wavering and lack of hope and energy were present in every lineament and movement. Sympathizing friends and loving relatives appealed to him in vain for information about his trouble. Medical men were unable to diagnose his case. Silence wrapped him round about. His tongue gave forth no sounds and his bosom heaved in moans and sighs.

The lodge sent a committee to condole with him, and if possible learn the nature of his afflictions. The committee found the brother in his library. His desk was littered with R. A. Bulletins, Advisory Committee Leaflets, Statistical Tables, hack numbers of the "R. A. Guide," arguments relating to the Experience of Fraternal Orders, and such like matter.

The spell had to be broken.

"Brother, have you satisfactorily solved the problem?" said the sympathizing chairman. The haggard face lit up and the weak voice replied:

"The 'adverse selections' of the 'direct exposures' being 'tabulated' over against the 'reverse persistents' as clearly set forth by Brother Mill-Rid-Sess make it clear that the continued 'early lapses' will more than exceed the 'reduced deterrent influences' affecting the 'later lapses' as is so plainly set forth by Brother Will-Berg-Son.

"But what puzzles me is how in the name of fog 'the adverse selections' of the 'reverse persistents' are to meet and mingle with the 'adverse exposures' of the 'early lapses' against the 'later lapses' and 'experiences' with the withdrawals of the fellows who refuse to be 'exposed' at all."

Silently the committee withdrew. The case was hopeless.—Borrowed and adapted from the Press.

"KISMET."

A lady living in a fashionable quarter has a bit of statuary bearing the inscription, "Kismet." The housemaid was dusting the room the other day when the mistress appeared.

"Shure, ma'am, what's the mauin' of the 'ritin' on the bottom of this?" asked the maid, referring to the inscription on the statue.

"Kismet means 'fate,'" replied the mistress.

Bridget was limping painfully when out with her sweetheart not long afterward, and he asked:

"What's the matter, Bridget?"

"Faith," was the answer, "I have the most tirrible korns on me kismet!"—Tit-Bits.

A HUMANE THOUGHT.

The thrifty woman passed through the room with an overcoat over one arm and a suit of her husband's winter clothes over the other.

"I suppose," he said, "that you are thinking of putting moth-balls into them so as to keep them through the summer?"

"Of course!"

"I don't see how you can conscientiously do it."

"Why not?"

"If it makes the moths suffer anything like as much as I will when I have to wear those clothes next fall, it's clearly a case for the S. P. C. A."—Washington Star.

TOO SOON TO TELL.

Gargoyle (back in town after a year's absence)—"When I went away, Jones and Brown were rival suitors for Miss Twitter's hand. Which proved to be the lucky man?"

Glanders—"Can't tell that yet. She married Brown only a month ago. Ask me again in about a year."—Life.

A PASTOR'S ODD ANNOUNCEMENT.

A Blughampton pastor recently startled his congregation by the following announcement: "Remember our quarterly meeting next Sunday. The Lord will be with us during the morning service, and the presiding elder in the evening."—Port Jervis Gazette.

A TEST OF INFLUENCE.

Irene—"She seems to have very little influence with her husband."

May—"Indeed?"

Irene—"Yes; she can never get him to spend more than he can afford."—Puck.

LITTLE BITS.

A countryman walked into a western newspaper office to advertise the death of a relative. "What is your charge?" he asked of the clerk.

"We charge two dollars an inch."

"Oh!" said the countryman, "I can't afford that. My friend was six feet three inches."—Household Words.

"What's worrying you, Silas?" Mrs. Stockwell inquired.

"I made a fool of myself this morning," her husband replied.

"How did you ever come to do that?"

"Met Jones in the car going down town and told him all about how much I consider myself worth. This afternoon I learned that he had been appointed tax assessor for this district."—Chicago Daily News.

"Well, Tommy, what did you learn at kindergarten to-day?" asked the boy's father.

"How to make a caterpillar out of clay," said Tommy.

"And was it a good one?"

"I guess not," said Tommy; "I couldn't make it crawl without breaking its back, so I rolled it up into a ball and played marbles with it, and won five glass agates from Bobby Jones."—Harper's Bazar.

"Beastly nuisance, isn't it?" said a young man at a social gathering the other evening.

"Spoke to that fellow over there—took him for a gentleman—and found he had a ribbon on his coat; some blooming head waiter, I suppose."

"Oh, no," replied the other, "that's Blank, the guest of the evening."

"Dash it all, now is it?" said the astonished swell. "Look here, old fellow, as you know everybody, would you mind sitting next me at dinner and telling me who every one is?"

"Should like to very much," replied the other man, "but you see I cannot. I'm the blooming head waiter!"—Chicago Daily News.

At a small dinner given recently in a western city the guest of honor was a young married woman who is the proud mother of two handsome boys, both under five years of age. In their education she endeavors to follow a system, after the manner of most young mothers, and is very particular to live up to any rule she has made for them.

During an early course in the dinner, and in the middle of an animated conversation with her host, she suddenly paused with a startled look, and cried:

"There, if I did not forget those boys again! Have you a telephone in the house, and may I use it?"

She was taken to the telephone by her host, and the murmur of her voice in earnest conversation floated back to the dining-room. After a short pause she returned.

"I do hope you will pardon me," she said. "But you see, I always have Georgie and Eddie say their prayers for me before they go to sleep. I forgot it to-night in the hurry of getting off, so I just called up the nurse. She brought them to the 'phone, and they said their prayers over the wire, so my mind is relieved."—New York Sun.

HOW ONE OF OUR LADY READERS MAKES A GOOD LIVING.

I have noticed the different ways in which some of your readers have been making money, and I wish now to give my experience. I am selling the Peerless Non-Alcoholic Flavoring Powders, never making less than \$3 a day, and I oftentimes clear over \$5. These powders are much cheaper than the liquids and they go twice as far. From one to eight different flavors can be sold at most every house for flavoring ice cream, custards, cakes, candies, etc., and they give to any delicacy in which they are put that richness of flavor so common to the fruits and flowers they represent. Guaranteed to be perfectly healthful. I have not any trouble selling them, as everyone who sees them tried buys them. By writing to W. H. Baird & Co., Dept. 99, Station A, Pittsburg, Pa., they will give you full particulars and give you a start. I give my experience, hoping that others who are in need of employment can do as well as I have.

AN AGENT WANTED

In every town and neighborhood to solicit subscriptions for the

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Extra liberal commissions, and special helps furnished, including the most successful premiums. Good income assured workers. Write at once for terms and sample copies. Supplies free. Address

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Has a Pad different from all others. Is cup shape, with self-adjusting Ball in center, adapts itself to all positions of the body, while the ball in the cup presses back the intestines, just as a person does with the finger. With light pressure the Hernia is held securely day and night, and a radical cure certain. It is easy, durable and cheap. Sent by mail. Circulars free.

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DR. B. F. BYE, Indianapolis, Ind.

(Cut this out and send to some suffering one.)

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RELIABLE MEN in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary; **\$65.00 PER MONTH** AND **EXPENSES** not to exceed \$2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars.

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We will mail on application, free information how to grow hair upon a bald head, stop falling hair, and remove scalp diseases. Address,

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Relieved with SORE EYES

Our Miscellany.

SWITZERLAND'S agricultural products are valued at about \$104,000,000 a year. This constitutes about seventy per cent of what is consumed in the country.

THE smallest horse in the world is a Shetland pony owned by the Marchese Carcano in Milan. It is twenty-four inches high, and when standing beside its owner the pony's back is only an inch above his knee.

In speaking of his nationality the other day, James Whitecomb Riley said: "I'm Irish from the word go. I show it in my tastes, I show it in my face and I show it in my name. Whoever heard of a man who was not Irish doing business at the old stand under the name of Riley?"

A PEACH-TREE near St. Louis, of the "Early Crawford" variety, bore last year (1897) a fine early crop of peaches. Without making any blossoms it went to work and produced another crop of peaches, not quite as large, but of excellent quality and a perfect peach, except that the seed is smooth and has no kernel.

"It's all the fault of the opposition party," said Senator Sorghum, who had been reproached by a friend for his lack of achievements. "As is the case with everything that goes wrong, it's all their fault."

"But you were elected," was the response. "Of course. But they keep me so busy worrying for fear I won't get back for another term that I have hardly any time left for saving my country."—Washington Star.

HE—"I wonder what the meaning of that picture is? The youth and maiden are in a tender attitude."

SHE—"Oh, don't you see? He has just asked her to marry him, and she is accepting him. How sweet! What does the artist call the picture?"

HE (looking about)—"Oh, I see! It's written on a card at the bottom, 'Sold!'"—Up-to-Date.

A LOUISVILLE gambler on one occasion thought he had a good thing when a stranger who looked as if he had plenty of money came along and suggested a friendly game of poker. The game ran along smoothly for awhile, and at last, when the opportune moment came, the gambler dealt to the guileless stranger four queens and gave himself four kings. The betting became interesting right away, and after all the cash was up and it came to a showdown the Louisville man laid down four kings and the stranger showed four aces. "Take the money, mister!" gasped the astonished Kentuckian; "take it, if you have the heart to do so; but I'll be darned if that was the hand I dealt you!"—Argonaut.

The Lock-pin Clevis, manufactured by the Cormany Manufacturing Co., 225 Dearborn St., Chicago, is a simple and thoroughly practicable device for use in team work where frequent changes are necessary. It can be easily attached or detached. When attached, the pin is locked in place by a steel lock-piece, which prevents the pin from coming out or getting lost. It is made of the best malleable iron, and is safe, strong and durable. It will be especially popular on the farm when frequent changes from one implement to another are necessary. The changes can be made with this device in a second without a wrench or any other tool. Every farmer and teamster should have several sets on hand ready for use. Agents make quick sales handling these goods. See advertisement in this paper and write for illustrated circular.

PEARLS.

As yet the origin of pearls is a matter of mere speculation. The old theory that they were "congealed dewdrops pierced by sunbeams" was supported by naturalists as late as 1864, and is evidenced in a Venetian medal bearing an open oyster-shell receiving drops of rain, with the motto, "By the divine dew." Later conchologists, however, contend that the pearl nucleus may be some minute particle, as a grain of sand, or the frustule of a diatom, or a tiny parasite, or perhaps one of the ova of the pearl-oyster itself. This particle or foreign body is gradually surrounded by thin layers of nacre until it is completely encysted and the pearl formed. The consecutive layers may vary in brightness and color, and a defect may be caused by contact with another foreign substance, thus changing the value with each new layer, and sometimes causing a "lively kernel" or "seed" to be inclosed in an apparently poor pearl.—Lippincott's.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

DID NOT RECOGNIZE HER.

Some trouble had occurred between the teller of a Pittsburg bank and his best girl. Both were very proud and high-spirited, and the young lady insisted upon repeating to the teller that he must never again speak to her; that he should never recognize her under any circumstances, and that if he did so she would consider it an insult. The teller was greatly offended. He longed for revenge, and a few days later he had it.

While shopping down town the young lady became short of money. She kept a small amount at an East End bank, but the money was needed at once. So she tripped lightly into the teller's bank, filled out her check for a few dollars, and presented it to her erstwhile escort.

"Are you acquainted with any one here?" asked the teller.

The young woman nearly fainted.

"If not," resumed the teller, "I'm afraid I can't cash your check. No doubt, it is perfectly good, but bank rules require that we know and recognize both the persons and signatures of all those to whom we pay money."

The gulf between them now can never be bridged.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

AN UNEXPLORED COUNTRY.

The immense territory of Thibet is almost completely surrounded by mountain ranges of appalling magnitude, which, especially along the southern, western and northern frontiers, constitute formidable barriers against ingress. From the Pamir plateau, in the extreme west ("the world's backbone"), radiate the great natural ramparts which shut out India on the one hand and the Tartar countries of Bokhara and Turkestan on the other. No Asiatic or western conqueror has ever dared to penetrate this mountain world, and even Genpish Kahn, the scourge of Asia, whose ravages extended from Peking in the east, to Moscow in the west, was obliged, when invading northern India, to take the circuitous route via Hashghar and Afghanistan, instead of crossing Thibet. Secure on their lofty plateau, and practically isolated from the rest of the world, the people of Thibet have remained undisturbed for ages, and have developed characteristics for which we would vainly search in any race of the globe. The Chinese "conquest" has not produced the slightest change in their mode of life or exercised any appreciable influence upon their peculiar culture.—Boston Transcript.

ROMANCE AND REALITY.

First college girl—"What is to be the title of your graduation essay?"

Second college girl—"Beyond the Alps lies Italy." What's the title of yours?"

First college girl—"Beyond the altar lies the wash-tub."

DEATH TO WEEDS.

Of all the enemies with which the farmer has to contend, weeds are the most insinuating and the most dangerous. Anything that means death to weeds means life to the legitimate crop and consequent success for the man who sows and expects to reap.

A farm of any kind or size without a modern weeding machine is as incomplete in its equipment as a business man's desk would be without a pen; and, as a diamond-pointed gold pen is far and away ahead of an ordinary steel pen, so Hallock's "Success" Anti-Clog Weeder and Cultivator, made by D. Y. Hallock & Son, York, Pa., is ahead of the ordinary weeding machine.

Every farmer should make a study of how to kill weeds—yes kill 'em. They are of no use. They deserve killing. The only way to kill the weeds economically and at the same time save the crop that the weeds will kill if you do not kill them is to act quickly and kill the weeds with a modern weeder while they are young and tender.

The manner with which Hallock's "Success" Weeder uses its teeth around the stools of grain, destroying the weeds, loosening the surface soil, and making plant-food available delights every intelligent farmer, for he knows that good, healthy plant-food is set free every time the soil is stirred.

Thousands of farmers—men tilling the soil for all kinds of crops in the North, the South, the East and the West—are a unit in saying that of all the agricultural implements introduced in recent years none have done more than Hallock's "Success" Weeder to save labor and at the same time bring abundant results. The farmer who does not at once write the makers of this model weeder, asking for full information, is making a mistake that he will be regretting he made about the time his weeds are getting ahead of his crops.

"Every one says FARM AND FIRESIDE is one of the best farm and family papers published, and WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION as good as any one-dollar magazine in the land, and as their prices are so low this makes it pleasant and successful for the agent. In my next list I will have some combination orders for 'American Women' and WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION together."—H. P. Greens, East Troy, Pennsylvania.

A LEGEND OF SOUTHERN JUSTICE.

In selecting a jury in a Southern court a lawyer in a murder case asked a hardy mountaineer:

"Do you believe in capital punishment?"

"In 'capital punishment?'"

"Yes."

"Naw, I don't. I'm ag'in capital wherever I sees it."

"My good man, you don't understand the question. In plain words, if the prisoner here should be found guilty would you object to hanging him?"

"Not a bit!" replied the man. "I've hung dozens in my day. Fact is, I hangs 'em every time I thing they needs it! All I want is rope."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

GOOD WORK IS IN DEMAND.

A prominent magazine editor, in reply to inquiry, writes: "No; we are not 'crowded with good matter'—either stories or poetry. The fact is 'good matter' is scarce—very scarce. We are in the market for it all the time, and we are anxious to pay the highest cash price for it—it makes no difference whether the author is known or unknown. Just try us and see!" That, Frank Stanton thinks, should be encouraging to young authors. But some of them are very fastidious. For example: A youthful author who had received a check for \$5 for a short article retained the check but wrote the editor: "If that article isn't worth \$5.50, it isn't worth anything."

OVERHEARD IN A BOOK-STORE.

New Clerk—"Have you ever read 'The Last Days of Pompeii?'"

Mrs. Nenrich—"No; what did he die of?"

New Clerk—"Some kind of an eruption, I believe."—Chicago News.

A BIG OFFER

50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the F. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$50 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 126 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

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A rare chance to get a FIRST-CLASS WATCH at manufacturer's cost. The movement is made by one of the largest American manufacturers, finely jeweled, perfectly regulated, equal as time-keeper to the best made, and absolutely guaranteed for 5 years. The case is hunting or open face magnificently engraved, SOLID 14K GOLD filled, 16 year guarantee with every watch. We can also give you a watch which LOOKS equally as well, with the same movement, at the price of \$3.65, but the case is NOT GOLD FILLED, but Electro gold plated, and it will not wear as long as the \$4.97 watch. We send you either watch on approval and you can examine it, and if you are perfectly satisfied pay the express agent our price, otherwise have it returned at our expense. Cut this out and state what kind of watch you want, the case for \$1.65 or the case for \$4.97, whether Gold filled or Gold plated. Also give your full name and address and the nearest express office. If you send money with order we will enclose \$3.85 a MAGNIFICENT CHAIN and CHARM, and guarantee absolute satisfaction. Order now, as this may not appear again.
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RUBBER For Men, Women and Children. Address, **The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co.,** 147 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO. Catalogue Free.

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Any Two Patterns, and Farm and Fireside one year, for 35 cents.

These patterns retail in fashion bazaars and stores for twenty-five to forty cents each, but in order to increase the demand for our paper among strangers, and to make it more valuable than ever to our old friends, we offer them to the lady readers of our papers for the low price of only 10 Cents Each.

Full descriptions and directions—as the number of yards of material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by. These patterns are complete in every particular, there

being a separate pattern for every single piece of the dress. All orders filled promptly.

For ladies, give BUST measure in inches. For SKIRT pattern, give WAIST measure in inches. For misses, boys, girls or children, give both BREAST measure in inches and age in years. Order patterns by their numbers.

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. To get BUST and BREAST measure, put the tape-measure ALL of the way around the body, over the dress close under the arms.

Special price of each pattern, 10 cents.

Postage one cent EXTRA on skirt, tea-gown and other heavy patterns.



No. 7310.—LADIES' WRAPPER. 11 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust.



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No. 7315.—BOYS' BLOUSE. 10 cents. Sizes, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.



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No. 7249.—LADIES' BASQUE. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 in. bust.
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No. 7298.—LADIES' PRINCESS DRESS. 11c. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust.



No. 7288.—GIRLS' COSTUME. 11 cents. Sizes, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years.



No. 7312.—LADIES' BLOUSE JACKET. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7303.—LADIES' NORFOLK BLOUSE JACKET. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7309.—MISSSES' BLOUSE WAIST. 10c. Sizes, 12, 14 and 16 years.

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No. 7295.—BOYS' SUIT. 10 cents. Sizes, 4 and 6 years.



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In view of what it has done for others, can you afford to go through another season without

READ THE TESTIMONY:

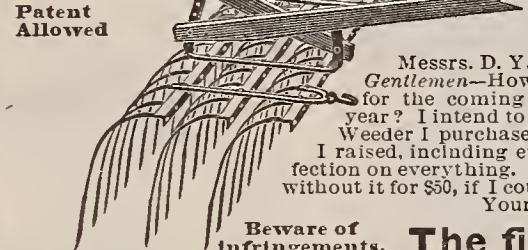
Messrs. D. Y. HALLOCK & SON, York, Pa.

Gentlemen—Last season I used one of your Success Anti-clog Weeders. Bought it of my brother, R. H. Jones, and I wish to let you know how much pleased I am with the Weeder. One of my neighbors was afraid to buy, but he was not afraid to borrow. He borrowed mine and said he went over his turnips with it and was very much pleased with the Weeder and the good work it did.

For myself I can say a great deal of my corn—never saw a hoe in the field during the entire season. One piece I planted a little too thick; so when it was about one foot high I wished to thin it out so it would ear better. So I took the Weeder and started in; went lengthwise and crosswise, and every other way that I could drive my horse, thinking it might break off some of the stalks; but I can safely say that I did not break off two stalks in the whole field.

Before I had commenced to use my Weeder many of my neighbors thought that it would tear up the corn and potatoes. But after they had seen me give it this thorough trial they were convinced that it would not harm the corn in the least. The fact is, I am sure the Weeder will not injure any crop grown on the farm. It is very important, however, that the Weeder be started early. If the weeds are allowed to get a good start the Weeder will simply cultivate them, as it does the crop.

Yours truly, W. R. JONES.



Patent Allowed

Beware of Infringements.

Messrs. D. Y. HALLOCK & SON, CENTER, N. Y.
Gentlemen—How about the price of your Weeder for the coming season? Is it the same as last year? I intend to sell quite a good many. I used the Weeder I purchased of you last year on everything I raised, including even onions, and it worked to perfection on everything. I can honestly say I would not be without it for \$50, if I could not get another just like it.

Yours truly, T. B. NICHOLS.

Messrs. D. Y. HALLOCK & SON, York, Pa.

Dear Sirs—I intend to sell just as many Weeders as I can this Spring. I bought one last Spring for my own use and they are certainly a complete success, and I would not think of farming without one. Last Spring, in April, I contracted to cut and haul to the saw mill a lot of lumber; so I took all my men away, leaving only my fourteen year old boy on the farm. Now, I will tell you what he did. He took the entire care of thirty-five acres of corn and twelve acres of potatoes, working both crops entirely with the Weeder, and I never saw a finer crop in my life.

The secret of Success in using your Weeder is to start it early, before anything grows, and keep the soil stirred so no weeds will grow. No farmer can afford to farm without a Weeder, and all will own one just as soon as they realize its value.

Yours truly,

HEZEKIAH GONGAMERE.

Messrs. D. Y. HALLOCK & SON, York, Pa.

Dear Sirs—Your favor of recent date, wishing to know if I am going to handle the Success Anti-clog Weeder the coming season received. I certainly am if you will permit me to, and I intend to push them for all they are worth.

I let my Weeder go wherever the farmers wanted to try it, and they all pronounced it a grand success; declared that it did fine work. The Weeder that I kept for my own use I would not take \$20 for if I could not get another just like it.

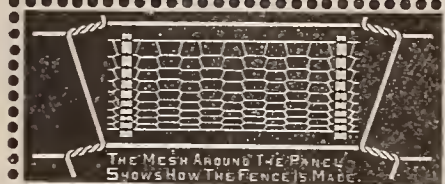
I sold one Weeder to a neighbor near by very late in the season, and I will tell you what he did with it. He planted one acre of potatoes quite late, and he tended them entirely with the Weeder until he went to hill them up, and spent but five hours work all told on the acre of potatoes. He told me he kept the time carefully that he spent in cultivating them. Said he started the Weeder before they were up, and went over the potatoes frequently.

Yours truly, J. W. HARDIN.

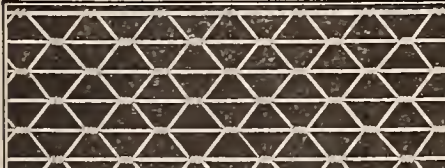
RUSSELLVILLE, Ark., December 21st, 1897.
"I had the best of success with the Success Anti-clog Weeder and Cultivator. I can truthfully say that I never used a tool that equalled it in young cotton and corn. I saved half of the hoeing and plowing by running the Weeder. I beat all my neighbors raising corn, and equalled any of them in producing cotton, with half the expense. Several neighbors say they want one. I want the agency for Pope and Yell counties, not just for 1898, but until all the farmers get one. They will all be sure to buy sooner or later."

B. H. ALLEN.

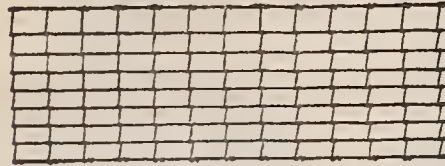
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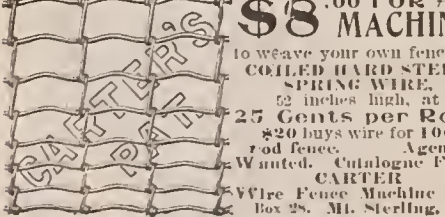
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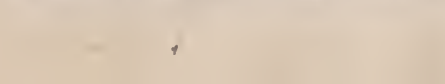
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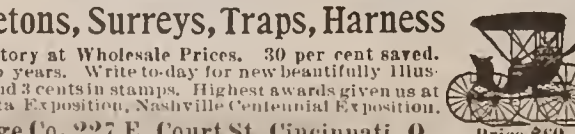
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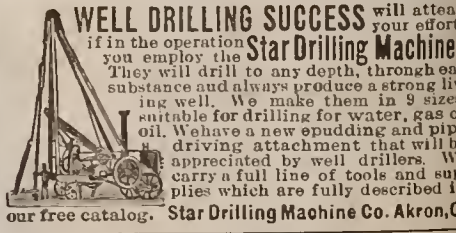
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